SPIDER-MAN

BY TODD DEZAGO & MIKE WIERINGO

RING-N-CASE

MARVEL

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BY TODD DEZAGO & MIKE WIERINGO

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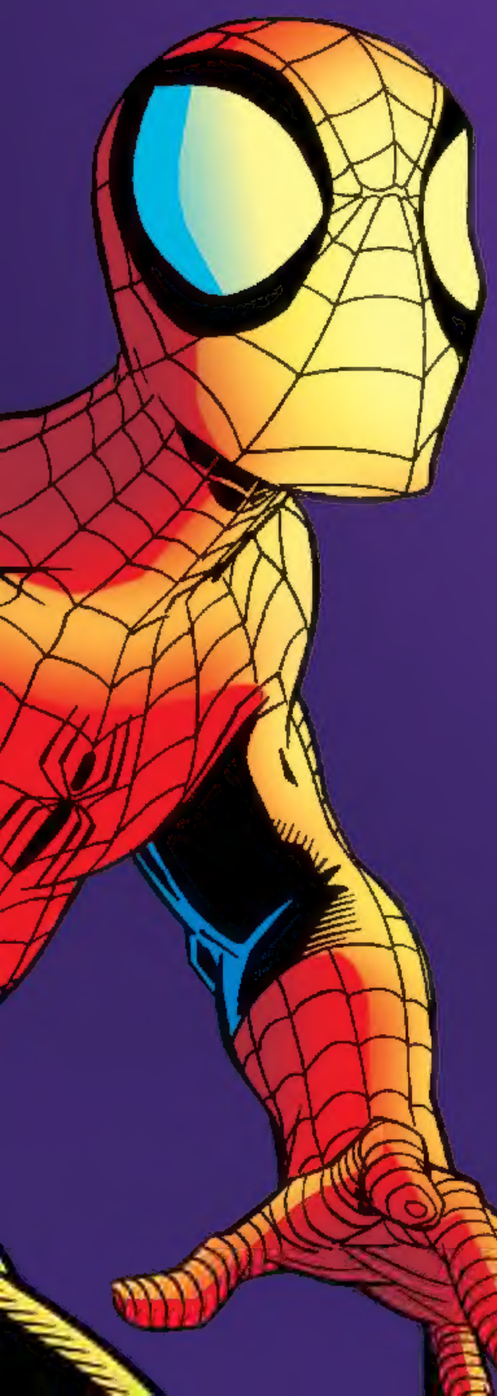

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TODD DEZAGO AND MIKE WIERINGO'S RUN BEGAN DURING AN EVENTFUL TIME IN SPIDER-MAN'S LIFE. PETER PARKER'S CLONE, NOW CALLING HIMSELF BEN REILLY, RETURNED FROM FIVE YEARS ON THE ROAD. THE TWO PERFORMED A TEST THAT, SHOCKINGLY, INDICATED THAT BEN HAD BEEN THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-MAN ALL ALONG, AND PETER THE CLONE. PETER SOON LOST HIS POWERS, AND RETIRED AS SPIDER-MAN TO FOCUS ON HIS WIFE MARY JANE AND THEIR UNBORN BABY. BEN DYED HIS HAIR BLOND AND TOOK ON THE MANTLE OF SPIDER-MAN, WITH AN UPDATED COSTUME AND WEAPONRY.

MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

AUG '96 7

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SO FAR TO FALL...

[redacted]

HE HAS RACED AGAINST TIME BEFORE.

NOW HE DESPERATELY **HURLS** HIMSELF THROUGH THESE WIND-SWEPT AVENUES --

-- **SNAPPING** HIS BODY FROM WEB-LINE TO WEB-LINE -- **FIGHTING** AGAINST THE **AIR CURRENTS** OF THE ONCOMING **STORM.**

HE CURSES THE WEATHER FOR SLOWING HIM DOWN --

-- AND CURSES **HIMSELF** FOR NOT BEING **FASTER!**

HIS NAME IS BEN REILLY -- THE **SENSATIONAL** SPIDER-MAN --

-- AND HIS BROTHER IS DYING!

His given name is **Peter Parker.** While in high school, he was bitten by a radioactive spider and endowed with amazing powers, which he has since used to protect the innocent and battle evil . Now he calls himself **Ben Reilly,** and as a costumed crimefighter he continues his crusade...for he understands that with great power must come great responsibility!

MARY JANE!

STAN LEE presents THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN in

HIGH DRAMA

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...I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GET HERE ***SOONER.*** I CAME AS SOON AS I GOT ***YOUR MESSAGE, BUT... WHAT HAPPENED..?!***

...WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH HIM?!?

THEY DON'T KNOW.

HE SAYS THAT HE HAD SOME ***MUSCLE SPASMS*** OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS -- NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

BUT THEN LAST NIGHT, HE JUST ***COLLAPSED*** ON THE ***KITCHEN FLOOR!***

AND THE ***DOCTORS*** DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ***CAUSING*** IT... ONLY THAT HIS CONDITION IS ***DETERIORATING.*** THEY'RE CALLING IN SOME ***SPECIALISTS*** --

-- BUT ALL THEY CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS KEEP HIM ***STABILIZED*** AND GIVE HIM SOMETHING FOR THE ***PAIN.***

IN SPIDER-MAN #70 – Rx Ralf.

MJ, I KNOW IT'S STUPID TO TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY. HE IS YOUR HUSBAND, BUT... ***DON'T WORRY.*** PETER CAN BEAT THIS, HE'S ***STRONG.*** HE'S BEEN THROUGH ***A LOT...***

HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT AS ***SPIDER-MAN*** --

-- BUT HE DOESN'T ***HAVE*** HIS POWERS ANYMORE, BEN --

-- AND WHATEVER THIS IS...

... IT'S ***KILLING*** HIM!

COME ON. HE'S BEEN ***DRIFTING*** IN AND OUT BECAUSE OF THE MEDICATION, SO I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S --

IT'S OKAY, HONEY -- I'M UP.

HEY, BRO'.

We talk for awhile, Peter, and I, covering some of the possibilities that the doctors may have... "OVERLOOKED"...

... CELLULAR DEGENERATION being at the top of the list.

Peter is a CLONE possessing my genetic info, and while he may have recently LOST his SPIDER-LIKE POWERS --

--it still leaves him with a rather... UNIQUE... physiology.

I'm telling him that I'll take some SAMPLES, run some TESTS of my own, 'cause I've got the same science background he does, when --

PETE..?!

HEY, MAN -- HOW YA DOIN'?

-- VISITING HOURS officially begin.

THAT BED LOOKS COMFY.

I'D BE HAPPY TO TRADE PLACES WITH YOU.

I step to one side as Peter and Flash cut on each other.

FLASH THOMPSON. Who'da thunk after all those years of him BULLYING and TORMENTING me... US... back in high school... that we could actually be FRIENDS?

We might be the same PERSON, Peter Parker, but I think you're much more FORGIVING than I.

It isn't very long before more people start to arrive --

--LIZ OSBORN, the widow of one of Pete's closest friends, and little NORMIE --

-- and I notice something... well...

... COOL ...

... is happening.

...Peter drifts IN and OUT...

I'm introduced as the "COUSIN" from upstate...

OLD FRIENDS and new continue to show up, offering SMILES and words of COMFORT and SUPPORT...

And I realize that these PEOPLE --

-- ROBBIE and BETTY, FELICIA and ELLIS, ANGELA and BEN --

-- they're not here because they FEEL they SHOULD BE, OBLIGATED to look in on a SICK FRIEND --

-- they're here because they CARE.

Oh, not ALL of it. But I think a good part of your LIFE is defined by your FRIENDS -- by those who LOVE YOU.

It makes me HAPPY to see the life Peter and Mary Jane have.

And for just a second, I WONDER...

...if they know how LUCKY they are...

...how LOVED they are..?

I don't have to wonder for LONG.

For PETER.

For MARY JANE.

This is their WORLD.

WHAT *IS* THIS... A *CONVENTION..?!*

WE CAN'T HAVE ***THIS MANY*** VISITORS. Mr. PARKER NEEDS HIS ***REST.*** COME ON, NOW -- YOU'RE ALL BEING ***EVICTED.***

LISTEN, YOU GUYS, I'LL SWING BY ***LATER*** TO GET THOSE ***SAMPLES*** --

-- TAKE 'EM TO A ***LAB*** AND SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S --

-- ***PETE..?!*** WELL, ***HE'S*** OUT.

THANKS FOR COMING, EVERYBODY --

-- IT REALLY MEANS A --

GET SET TO ***BREAK IN*** THAT NEW ***CAMERA,*** ANGE!

THE ***WALTERS KID*** JUST TOLD ME THERE'S A ***JUMPER*** ON TOP OF THE ***RAND BUILDING*** THREE BLOCKS OVER!

YOU'D BETTER GET GOING *TOO*, BEN - YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR YOUR *MEETING*.

RIGHT...

...THANKS.

'BYE, LIZ!

MARY JANE, YOU *KNOW* THAT IF THERE'S ANYTHING OUR PAPER, THE *BUGLE* CAN DO, DON'T *HESITATE*.

YOU KNOW OUR PUBLISHER, JONAH, THINKS THE WORLD OF PETER...

...I'M SURPRISED HE DIDN'T SHOW UP HERE TONIGHT.

WOW! I guess years of living with PETER have made MJ quite an ACTRESS, giving me that opening the way she did!

JUST TOO COOL.

And now, to take ADVANTAGE of it and see if I can figure out what's --

-- WHOA..!

Well, HERE'S a guy who doesn't do things HALFWAY...

THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP

He's positioned himself so far up the AERIAL TOWER that he's made himself completely INACCESSIBLE!

With the STORM moving in, the WIND is just RIPPING at him --

-- and it's also keeping the 'COPTERS at bay, so the COPS can't get close enough to TALK HIM DOWN!

Nobody can get to him!

Well...

...not NOBODY.

THWIPP

THUP THUP THUP THUP

A17-014

...BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY *GREY POUPON?*

EXCUSE ME...

Huh?

THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP

LISTEN... PAL...

...I'M NO *EXPERT*, BUT, Um... ISN'T THAT A LITTLE, *Y'KNOW*...

...*DANGEROUS?*

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU *SAY*, SPIDER-MAN --

-- I *WANT* TO DO THIS! MY LIFE *STINKS* -- I'M *LONELY* AND *DEPRESSED!* THINGS SHOULD BE GOING *BETTER* BY NOW.

I SHOULD BE *MARRIED* ALREADY -- HAVE A *BETTER JOB* -- *FRIENDS*... BUT I *DON'T!* I DON'T *FIT IN ANYWHERE!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEWSCOPTER --

I'M NOTHING BUT A *LOSER*...

...A *WORTHLESS LOSER*...

HANG ON, GUYS --

-- *WIND-SHEAR!*

JOE! WHAT'S GOING --

THUD

AAAAHH!

THUMP

OH MY GOD!

THUP THUP THUP THUP

PULL UP! PULL UP!

A17-014

I CAN'T! I DON'T--

CRASH

WHOA.

HOLY --

I'd hoped I was gonna be able to TALK to this guy -- get him to come down on his OWN --

-- but NOW...

SO TELL ME, PAL -- WHAT'S YOUR ***NAME?***

G-GEORGE.

WELL, GEORGE -- I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE RIGHT NOW --

-- BUT IF YOU ***HANG AROUND,*** WE CAN FINISH ***CHATTIN'*** LATER.

I'LL EVEN TAKE YOU BACK UP TO THE ***ROOF,*** IF YOU WANT..!

IT'S UP TO ***YOU,*** BUT I HOPE YOU'LL ***STICK AROUND...***

...I THINK I MIGHT NEED SOME ***HELP!***

BUT... BUT...

CRASH and BURN.

The Copter's WEDGED into the building PRETTY GOOD -- but rather than take any CHANCES --

--I think I'll throw on a couple strands of WEBBING --

-- just to give it a little EXTRA SUPPORT --

-- before I start pulling people OUT OF THERE!

OKAY -- HOW WE *DOIN' IN THERE?*

THE *PILOT* NEEDS *HELP* AND THE *FIRE'S SPREADING!*

YOU'VE GOTTA GET *US* **OUT OF HERE!**

I'M *ON IT!* JUST EVERYBODY STAY *CALM.* *WHATEVER* YOU DO, *DON'T* --

MOVE!

RRUNK

AAHHH!

Weight's SHIFTED -- the whole copter's TIPPING!

GOTCHA!

HANG ON! YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY FIRST PASSENGER!

GEORGE, CALL 911 -- AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR OUR FRIEND HERE!

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL BLOCKS OVER..

I JUST THINK WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL --

NNGH.

UNGHN!

NURSE!

NURSE!

SOMEBODY --

--HELP!

The fire's KICKING UP -- ENGULFING the helicopter --

-- and the HIGH WINDS are FEEDING IT!

Have to get these guys out of here FAST!

EITHER OF YOU GUYS KNOW CPR?

I... I DO...

GOOD.

HE'S NOT BREATHING!

HE'S NOT BREATHING! OXYGEN!

LET'S GET THOSE MONITORS ON HIM!

I WISH they'd evacuate the STREETS faster!

That webbing isn't going to last FOREVER and this wind is RELENTLESS!

FOURTH FLOOR! HOUSEWARES, HARDWARE, LADIES' LINGERIE --

HEY, GEORGE --

-- WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!

HE'S IN CARDIAC ARREST!

THE EMERGENCY CREWS ARE ON THEIR WAY, BUT UNTIL THEN...

HE'S IN CARDIAC ARREST, PEOPLE --

-- LET'S GET HIM BACK!

A FIST of WIND SLAMS into the building --

-- and I know before I even feel the TREMOR that the COPTER'S LET GO!

RRRUMBLE

Webbing's HOLDING --

-- but the KID --

This is DO-ABLE.

Just got to get EVEN with him.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let me get EVEN with him. Come on -- faster!

AAH

COME ON, COME ON...

THWIP

THWAP

COME ON COME ON...

HEY --

-- I THINK I'VE GOT A PULSE!

COME ON COME ON...

WE'VE GOT A BEAT, DOCTOR...

THE PARAMEDICS ARE HERE, BUT --

-- YOU DID IT, GEORGE! YOU DID IT!

NICE JOB, GEORGE.

HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

-- CLOSE!

This is gonna be cuttin' it --

AAAH!

WHAM!

SOMETIME LATER...

SO, GEORGE --

-- CAN I *DROP* YOU ANYWHERE...?

NOOO -- I THINK I'LL GIVE THAT A *MISS.*

THIS HAS BEEN A PRETTY *EXCITING* -- AND *SOBERING* -- EXPERIENCE, SPIDER-MAN. I FOUND OUT THAT MAYBE I'M NOT AS *WORTHLESS* AS I THOUGHT. THANKS.

THAT'S IT, GEORGE -- YOU DA *MAN!*

NO, NO, SPIDEY --

-- *YOU* DA MAN!

MEANWHILE, AT THE RENAULT DIAMOND EXCHANGE...

-- COMES OUTTA *NOWHERE,* AND HE'S POINTING THESE *GLOVES* AT US, HITTING US WITH SOME *SERIOUS VIBRATIONS* --

-- HE *KNOCKED THE WHOLE TRUCK OVER!*

MM. *GREAT.*

HEY, *KULION* --

-- IS *HERMAN SCHULTZ* STILL IN *SLAM..?*

'CAUSE THIS ONE'S GOT *SHOCKER* WRITTEN *ALL OVER* IT!

Mrs. PARKER..?

YES?

COULD YOU STEP OUT HERE INTO THE HALL-WAY FOR A MOMENT..?

I WANTED TO ***INTRODUCE*** YOU TO ONE OF THE ***SPECIALISTS*** WE'VE BROUGHT IN TO LOOK OVER YOUR HUSBAND'S CASE.

THIS IS ***Dr. CURT CONNORS.***

HELLO, Mrs. PARKER -- I'M SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT PETER'S ***CONDITION.*** YOUR HUSBAND'S AN OLD... ***FRIEND...*** OF MINE.

I ***ASSURE*** YOU, I'LL DO ***EVERYTHING*** I CAN TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ***WRONG WITH HIM.***

NEXT:

NOT WHO YOU'RE EXPECTING! BE HERE IN THIRTY FOR —

THE USUAL SUSPECT!

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN®

SEPT '96 8

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE LOOTER™: ARMED TO THE TEETH!

SPIDER-MAN®: WISHING HE'D STAYED IN BED!

RINGO -N- CASE

BEHOLD, A TYPICAL SUMMER'S MORN --

-- AS A PASSEL OF **PEDESTRIANS** PAUSES TO PEER UP AT A SIGHT THAT HAS BECOME **COMMMONPLACE** ABOVE THESE METROPOLITAN STREETS.

THE SENSATIONAL --

SPIDER-MAN!
YO, DUDE!

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That's me...

...and on a beautiful day like today, there's NO ONE I'd rather be! EXCEPT MAYBE...

NAH! Then I'd have to do those STUPID MAGIC TRICKS like making the Statue of Liberty disappear..!

Still, he IS dating CLAUDIA SCHIFFER..!

THUMP

Anyway -- I've combed the city four TIMES now, searching for some sign of that wannabe LIZARD ... GUY ... THING ... and came up empty...

SPIDEY BATTLED A WANNABE **LIZARD... GUY... THING...** IN SPECTACULAR **SPIDER-MAN #237** STILL ON SALE! – Receptin'- Ralf.

Same goes for this recent CRIME WAVE...

... all the CLUES seem to indicate that the RINGER, the TRAPSTER, the SHOCKER, and STILT-MAN are the responsible MONKEYS...

WHOA! Low Bridge.

... but something about that just doesn't FEEL right...

THUMP

I mean, why the "HIT-AND-RUN" crimes..?

Each of these guys LOVES the spotlight. Where's the MULTIPLE robberies... the customary CRIME SPREE..?!

UNLESS...

...unless it IS a crime spree... set up to FRAME the others... pulled off by just ONE GUY!

But if THAT'S the case...

...then WHO?!

Stan Lee Presents

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN IN The USUAL SUSPECTS

Todd Dezago
Script
Richard Starkings & Comicraft
Letters
Gregory Wright
Colors
Malibu Enhancement
Ralph Macchio
Editor and
Bob Harras
Chief
Proudly Welcome the Sensational New Art Team of
Mike Wieringo & Richard Case!

THWIPP

MEANWHILE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

...MILES TO THE NORTH, ON A CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE HUDSON RIVER...

...A MAN KNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE ONLY AS THE LOOTER...

...PAUSES A MOMENT TO PONDER HIS PLUNDER!

Ah, THIS IS *RICH!* AND NOW OF COURSE...

...SO AM I!

AND WHO BUT I, *NORTON G. FESTER*, WITH MY INCREDIBLE *MENTAL ABILITIES* AND *METEOR-BORN SUPER-STRENGTH*, COULD HAVE DEVISED SUCH AN *INGENIOUS* PLAN?*

* FESTER WAS GIVEN SUPER-STRENGTH WHEN HE ACCIDENTALLY INHALED FUMES FROM A METEOR WAY BACK IN **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #36** -- Ancient Ralf.

THAT'S RIGHT, -- AND *WITH* THAT SUPER STRENGTH I WAS ABLE TO *BREACH* THE *UNBREACHABLE* SECURITY SYSTEMS OF THAT REPOSITORY FOR SUPER-VILLAIN WEAPONRY -- THE *IRON ROCK* FACILITY * --

-- AND *LIBERATE* THE WONDERFUL ARRAY OF *DEVICES THAT ARE HERE BEHIND DOOR #1!!*

Snapple

* SEE SPECTACULAR **SPIDER-MAN** #236 FOR THE SCOOP– Monty Ralf.

WITH THE WEAPONS OF THE *RINGER*, THE *TRAPSTER*, *STILT-MAN*, THE *MAULER*, AND THE *SHOCKER* AT MY *DISPOSAL* --

-- *THEY* WILL BE SUSPECTED FOR THE CRIMES I COMMIT, WHILE *I* MAINTAIN *COMPLETE ANONYMITY!*

I'VE PERPETRATED THE ***PERFECT*** CRIME -- I'VE ***STOLEN*** THEIR ***CRIMINAL IDENTITIES.*** I'VE ***LOOTED*** THE ***LOOTERS!***

LOOT! LOOT! LOOT!

HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU GUESSED IT, FRIEND! NORTON G. FESTER ***IS A PART-TIME NUT!*** -- Full-time nut --Ralf

AHEM! YES, WELL...

...NOW THAT I HAVE ***AMASSED*** SO MUCH MORE THAN A ***KING'S RANSOM,*** I CAN ***FINANCE*** THE PURCHASE OF THE ***FINAL COMPONENT*** IN MY ***MASTER PLAN.***

AND ONCE I HAVE ***THAT,*** THE LOOTER WILL BE ***NO MORE*** --

-- AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW ***NORTON G. FESTER*** AS THE MAN WHO UNLOCKED THE ***MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE!***

AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT --

Well, I can worry about that LATER --

-- even though PETE'S back on his FEET, the HOSPITAL won't release him till they've run all their TESTS.

He said he's BORED as a box of BRICKS, so I'm sure he won't mind a VISIT --

-- from his favorite "COUSIN!"

HOWDY THERE, MON FRERE!

HEY, BENSON!

THERE, *BEN* CAN SETTLE IT.

SETTLE *WHAT?*

WE'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER WE WANT THEM TO DO A *SONOGRAM* TO TELL IF THE BABY'S A *GIRL* OR A *BOY*... WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

HEY. BOY OR GIRL, I DON'T CARE. I'M GONNA *LOVE* THE LITTLE BUGGER *EITHER WAY*...

GREAT. *YOU'RE* NO HELP.

WOW. I GUESS THE COPS ***DID*** PIN THIS GOLD ROBBERY ON STILT-MAN.

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE FROM A DIFFERENT ***SCHOOL OF THOUGHT*** ON THAT.

WELL, I JUST DON'T ***BUY IT***. I MEAN... ***ALL*** THESE ROBBERIES -- THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE A ***STRING*** OF ***SEPARATE INCIDENTS***...

...BUT NONE OF THESE GUYS CAN *HIT* JUST ONE! WHEN THEY ***START***, THEY JUST CAN'T ***STOP!***

I THINK THIS IS A ***FRAME-UP.***

WHAT DAY DID THAT ***ARMORED CAR*** GET ***ROCKED?***

IF THERE'S ONE THING WE ***DO*** HAVE AROUND HERE, IT'S ***DAILY BUGLES.***

HERE. TUESDAY.

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SHOCKING ROBBERY!

YEAH, ***SEE. VIBROBLASTS...*** EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS SAYS ***SHOCKER,*** BUT --

ROGER & KLINT

DIAMOND EXCHANGE

HEY!

-- WAITA-- MINUTE!

ISN'T THIS THE PLACE THAT --?

ROGER & KLINT

DIAMOND EXCHANGE

COULD IT BE THIS *SIMPLE...?*

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

IN EACH PAPER THAT REPORTS ONE OF THE CRIMES, THERE'S AN *ADVERTISEMENT* FOR THE PLACE THAT GETS *HIT* TWO OR THREE DAYS LATER!

WELL, IT'S NOT *MUCH,* BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT TO GO ON RIGHT NOW...!

HEY, BRO' -- IF YOU NEED ANY *HELP,* I COULD --

Mr. PARKER! I'LL SAY THIS ONCE! YOU ARE *NOT* TAKING *ONE STEP* OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL UNTIL THE DOCTOR SAYS *YOU CAN!*

Oh, Peter -- you are SO --

AND IS THERE SOMETHING YOU FIND *HUMOROUS, Mr. REILLY..?!?*

-- BUSTED...

THAT EVENING...

There were SEVERAL ads in the Bugle for places that might be HIT -- but THIS seemed the most likely TARGET.

KOYBAYASHI IMPORTS is currently showing a FORTUNE in rare BLACK PEARLS.

And my hunch MUST be right, because my SPIDER-SENSE --

PRETZELS

BLAM

AND AS THE SWIRLING SMOKE CLEARS --

WHOA! What --?!

The... UNICORN..?!

And he's making sure that the WITNESSES get a good look at him in ACTION!

VROOM

UH-OH!

WHAT THE @$%! WAS -- *YIKES!*

'SGONNAHURT 'SGONNAHURT 'SGONNA --

-- Huh?!?

HEY! *PRETZEL MAN!*

IF I WERE YOU, I'D *GET OUTTA HERE* BEFORE --

SPIDER-MAN!

Oboy.

SHOOM

GNAAA!

WHAM

Ungh... not...

...not Unicorn...

Loo...

... Loot ...

...THE LOOTER!

YES! YES! YES! CORRECT THE FIRST TIME!

YOU ARE SOOO PERCEPTIVE!

WELL, TA DA! IT'S ME! YOU MUST BE AWED BY MY PRESENCE! I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE TO APPLAUD --

-- BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, THAT WILL BE QUITE DIFFICULT. I HAVE YOU WEBBED UP WITH YOUR OWN...

...SPIDER-GOOP!

I MUST COMPLIMENT YOU ON ITS COMPOSITION -- THAT STUFF IS STRONG!

STRONG ENOUGH, I'M SURE, TO HOLD EVEN YOU!

AND NOW THAT I'VE ADDED YOUR WEB-SHOOTERS TO MY INVINCIBLE SUPER ARSENAL --

-- I'M UNBEATABLE! NO MORE WORKING FOR OTHERS FOR THE LOOTER!

NO MORE THE LACKEY OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS, WITH HER NETWORK OF LOSERS AND CYBERNETIC TRINKETS!

AS SEEN IN SPECTACULAR SCARLET SPIDER #1 – Cyber-Ralf.

Uh, RRRIGHT... LISTEN --

-- LOOTIE...

...TELL ME, HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN WEBBED UP HERE?

ABOUT AN ***HOUR*** OR ***SO.***

BUT ***THAT'S*** NOT THE POINT -- THE ***POINT*** IS THAT YOU SEE THE ***GENIUS*** OF MY PLAN!

IN UTILIZING THE ***WEAPONS*** AND ***MODUS OPERANDI*** OF OTHERS, I HAVE PROVEN MYSELF THE ***MASTER THIEF--***

-- THE ***ULTIMATE LOOTER!***

WITH THIS DEVIOUS ***DEVICE,*** I WILL NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO ***TAP*** INTO THE METEOR WHICH GAVE ME MY ***AWESOME STRENGTH*** --

-- BUT ALSO ***PLUMB THE DEPTHS*** OF THE METEOR'S ***MISSING*** ***TWIN*** --

-- WHICH I'VE RECENTLY ***LOCATED...***

AND FROM THERE I'M CERTAIN THAT I'LL MAKE SOME OF THE GREATEST ***SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF ALL TIME!***

NOW THAT I'VE ***APPROPRIATED*** ENOUGH ILL-GOTTEN FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE MISSING METEOR --

-- IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL THE NAME ***NORTON G. FESTER*** IS SYNONYMOUS WITH ***MANKIND'S GREATEST SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS!***

AND, OF COURSE, ALL THE ***SPOILS*** FROM MY ***SPECTACULAR ROBBERIES*** GO DIRECTLY INTO MY ***RESEARCH.***

BEHOLD, SPIDER-MAN --

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN'...

-- THE ***METEORATOR 300!*** PATENT PENDING!

Um... **LOOK** -- I DON'T MEAN TO BE **RUDE** OR ANYTHING, BUT --

-- IF YOU'RE THE GREATEST LOOTER THERE EVER **WAS**...

...WHY DON'T YOU JUST **STEAL** THE SECOND METEOR..?

Y'KNOW --

-- I NEVER **THOUGHT** OF THAT.

FSSSSS

I'LL BET YOU SAY **THAT** A LOT!

BY THE WAY, LOOTIE -- I THINK OUR **HOUR** IS JUST ABOUT **UP** --

FSSSSS

SPIDEY'S WEBBING **DISSOLVES** IN ABOUT AN HOUR BUT YOU SAW THAT COMING, **DIDN'T YOU?** --Disappearing Ralf.

SKRPT

-- AND YOU'RE GOING **DOWN!**

SKPT

WHAT --?!?

SKPT

SHING

NO! **NO!** I WON'T LET YOU **ROB ME** OF MY **RIGHTFUL** PLACE IN THE ANNALS OF SCIENCE! I'LL BE **GREATER** THAN GALILEO, MORE **NOTED** THEN NEWTON -- AND MORE **HERALDED** THAN HAWKING!

SHING

Feel a little NAKED without my WEB-SHOOTERS! Have to go on the DEFENSIVE -- Take to the HIGH GROUND! Anything to get a BREAK from that ranting!

If I can get up in these RAFTERS -- stick to the SHADOWS --

-- Then I can rely on my SPIDER-SENSE to tell me when --

-- TO MOVE!

WITH ALL OF THESE *GADGETS* AT MY *FINGERTIPS*, SPIDER-MAN --

ZOOP

-- YOU'LL NEVER *SURVIVE* MY *WRATH!* I'VE *MULTIPLE* METHODS OF *EXTERMINATING* YOU, BUG BOY!

FIRST OF ALL --

KOOM

-- *GIMME THAT* --

SCHWAP

-- BEFORE YOU PUT SOMEBODY'S *EYE OUT*... AND LEAVE THE HUMOR TO *ME*, PAL!

KRAK

-- YA MIGHT HIT SOMETHING *IMPORTANT!* LIKE MY *HEAD!*

SMASH!

SECOND OF ALL -- *WATCH* WHERE YOU'RE *SHOOTING* --

NO! MY *DEVICE!* *YOU* --

HEY, LOOTIE!

Eh?

STILT-MAN CALLED --

-- HE SAID HE WANTS HIS *LEGS* BACK! IT'S TOUGH PEEKING INTO BEDROOM WINDOWS WITHOUT 'EM! GOTTA JUMP UP AND EVERYTHING!

SHRAKT

WAIT! WAIT! IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO *HAPPEN* THIS WAY!

I'M NOT DOING IT FOR *ME* -- I'M DOING IT FOR --

-- SCIENCE...

POW

WHAT *I* CAN'T BELIEVE IS THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY *FIGHTING* OVER THIS! IT'S JUST A *ROCK!* IT'S --

-- *WAIT A MINUTE* -- THIS ISN'T EVEN A *ROCK..!*

THIS FEELS LIKE --

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN -- *WE'LL* TAKE IT FROM HERE.

Huh?

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUYS -- THE ESPIONAGE OUTFIT..?! BUT, WHAT... WHAT...

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO *DIVULGE* THAT INFORMATION.

THE ORIGINS AND PROPERTIES OF THIS ITEM HAVE LONG BEEN A MATTER OF *NATIONAL SECURITY.* WE'VE BEEN *MONITORING* Mr. FESTER FOR SOME TIME NOW.

IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT HIS *RESEARCH* ENTERED AN ARENA FELT BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS WAS BETTER LEFT IN THE HANDS OF AUTHORIZED RESEARCHERS.

SEE.

LATER, BACK IN MANHATTAN...

Well, THERE'S an adventure I'm never going to tell anyone about. Apparently Fester's ideas weren't as SCREWBALL as they --

-- Huh?

Spider-sense going BLOOEY! What's happening --?!

My god --!

NEXT: IN AMAZING #415: ONSLAUGHT

NEXT: IN SENSATIONAL #9: SWARM!

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN™

OCT. '96 9

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

AFTER THE AVENGER

TM

COMES THE SWARM!

TM

KRAKOA 'N CASE

MANHATTAN --

THE INSTITUTE OF SEISMOHARMONIC RESEARCH --

-- A FACILITY DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF THE COUNTLESS LAYERS OF VIBRATORY ENERGY THAT PERMEATE THE EARTH AND AIR AROUND US.

I'M TELLING YOU, MATTHEW -- THIS IS THE FUTURE!

WE'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS THAT VIBRATIONS ARE THE GLUE OF OUR EXISTENCE; THEY'RE INHERENT IN EVERYTHING WE SEE!

-- YET ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING AS DELICATE AS THE MOLECULAR COHESION THAT HOLDS TOGETHER ALL THINGS ORGANIC AND INORGANIC.

WITH THIS BABY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THOSE VIBRATORY PATTERNS WITH SUCH PRECISION --

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT, DAVE.

THIS THING ALSO HAS THE ABILITY TO ALTER THOSE PATTERNS. PATTERNS -- YOU JUST SAID SO YOURSELF --

-- THAT COMPRISE ONE OF THE MOST DELICATE FORCES OF NATURE! WHO ARE WE TO PLAY WITH THAT KIND OF POWER?

WE'RE RESPONSIBLE SCIENTISTS WHO --

!?!

CRASH

DAVE! MATTHEW! LOOK!

WH-WHAT IS IT...?

IS IT SMOKE?!

IS THERE A FIRE?!?

MILTON, DANIEL

N-NO... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SMOKE...

IT'S BEES, DAVE --

-- AND THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO GET IN!!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN --

Running -- or should I say, "SWINGING"? -- a little LATE for work this morning.

Couldn't CHANCE that the BUS would get me here in time.

Public transportation's been really screwed up since the whole ONSLAUGHT fiasco.

But with the help of some WEB-FLUID and my SPIDER-BORNE AGILITY --

-- it's easy to make up for the LOST TIME!

PROPERTY OF NY SANITATION DEPT

FUMP

Spider-Sense says NOBODY'S LOOKING, so it's off with the MASK --

DAILY GRIND SERVICE ENTRANCE

EMPLOYEES ONLY

-- and BODDA-BING-BODDA-BOOM --

-- it's BEN REILLY, mild-mannered JAVA-JERK!

MORNIN', JOE, LOU.

HEY.

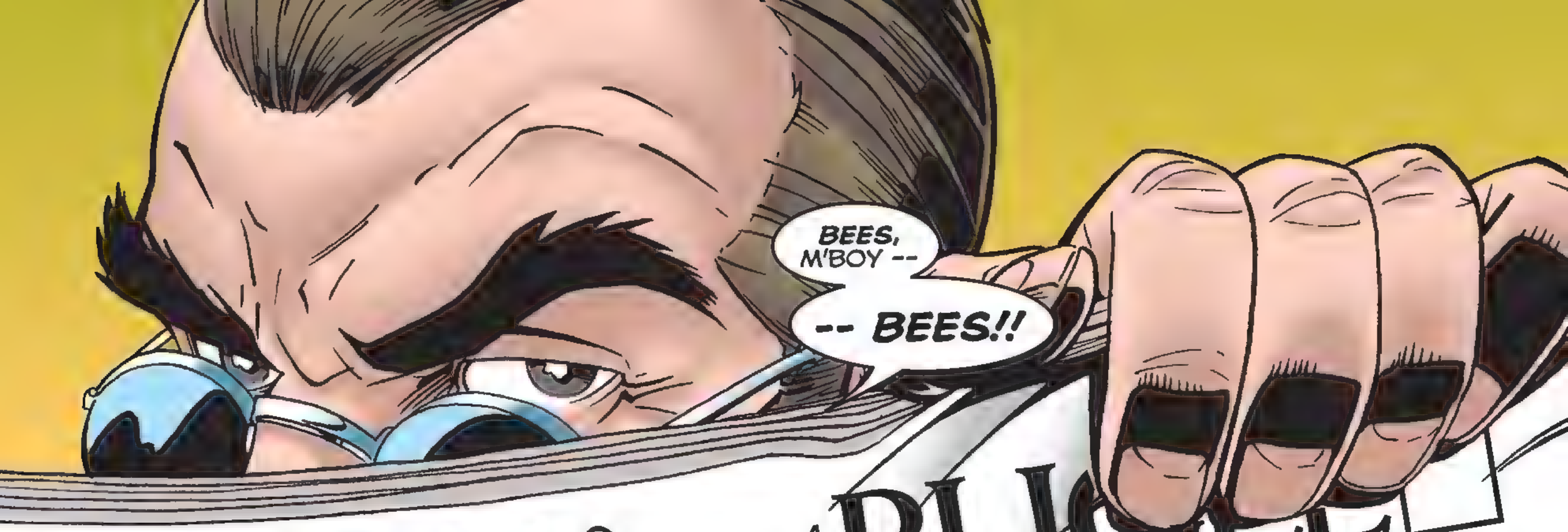
HEY, BEN.

MORNIN', SHIRL -- SORRY I'M LATE, I --

DON'T ***SWEAT IT***, BEN. ***EVERYONE'S*** DRAGGING TODAY -- MUST BE THE ***HEAT***.

WHAT'S THE ***BUZZ***, ***BUZZ***...?

Hrmm.



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DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1996

OL. XXXIV, NO. 9

SWARMED!

PRESENTED BY STAN LEE EXCLUSIVE TO THE BUGLE

MANHATTAN: Artist **Mike Wieringo**, penciler, and **Richard Case**, inker, were attacked by a swarm of killer bees in Central Park yesterday. Liz Agraphiotis, spokesperson for **Richard Starkings** and Comicraft, commented that **Gregory Wright**, colorist, had corralled the frenzied bees and relocated them to **Malibu** for enhancement. **Ralph Macchio**, editor, blamed the incident on writer **Todd Dezago**. Editor-in-chief **Bob Harras** was unavailable for comment.

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IT APPEARS THAT ***HORDES*** OF ***BEES*** FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A ***PILGRIMAGE*** TO OUR FAIR ***METROPOLIS*** --

-- SWARMING IN NUMBERS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE TRILLIONS, AND CAUSING NO SMALL AMOUNT OF PANIC AMONG THE POPULACE!

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THIS CITY BARELY SURVIVED THE WRATH OF ***ONSLAUGHT,*** AND THIS ***HEATWAVE*** --

-- NOW WE'VE GOT ***BEES!***

GOOD MORNING, Mr. REILLY.

D-***DESIREE..?*** WHAT ARE YOU DOING SITTING AT THE ***BAR?*** WHY AREN'T YOU AT YOUR USUAL ***BOOTH..?!***

OKAY -- ENOUGH WITH THE ***PLEASANTRIES.*** LET'S CUT TO THE ***CHASE.***

WHAT TIME DO YOU ***GET OFF*** TONIGHT?

Um...

Uh...

IT'S A ***MOOT*** QUESTION...

... SHIRL ALREADY TOLD ME YOU'RE **DONE** AT **5:30**. SO IN **THAT** CASE, **OKAY** -- I **WILL** GO TO SEE **"RENT"** WITH YOU TONIGHT.

RENT!? THAT'S LIKE THE **HOTTEST SHOW ON BROADWAY...** YOU HAVE TO WAIT **MONTHS** TO GET TICKETS --

-- AND THEY MUST BE *GOING FOR* --

RENT
ADMIT ONE

THWAP

WELL, **THAT** WAS EASY ENOUGH...

DON'T BE **LATE.**

Uh...

Hrmm.

... I'LL MEET YOU HERE AT 7:00, THEN.

MUST BE THE HEAT.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE LAB --

-- THE RESEARCHERS AT THE **SEISMOHARMONIC INSTITUTE** FIND THEMSELVES LITERALLY SURROUNDED BY **BEES**...

... A HUMMING **RING** OF THE **FURIOUS INSECTS** HERDING THEM INTO A **TIGHT GROUP!**

THIS IS **RIDICULOUS!**

I'M NOT GOING TO LET A **BUNCH OF BEES** KEEP ME FROM --

DAVE! NO, DON'T! YOU --

WHA -- **YEOW!**

Huh..?

THEY'RE... LEAVING...

YOU WERE STUNG BUT TWICE, HUMAN --

-- HAD WE WISHED TO TAKE YOUR LIFE, YOU WOULD BE **DEAD!**

MY HAND! MY HAND!

WE/I ARE SWARM! --

-- AND YOU WILL DO OUR BIDDING!

THIS FORM IS DISTURBING TO YOU... AND YET, ONCE --

-- WE/I WERE LIKE YOU!

ONCE, WE/I WAS MAMMALHUMAN -- A PHYSICIAN, AN APIARIST* -- WHO STUMBLED UPON A HIVE OF MUTATED KILLER BEES WHILE ON EXPEDITION IN SOUTH AMERICA.

* ONE WHO STUDIES BEES -- GO FIGURE! -- - Researchin' Ralf.

WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE INTELLIGENT INSECTS MY OWN - TO CONTROL THEM --

-- THEY, INSTEAD, ATTACKED ME -- KILLING ME -- DEVOURING ME --

-- SOMEHOW ABSORBING MY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THEIR HIVE-MIND!

INSTANTLY, I HAD CONTROL -- I HAD BECOME PART OF THEM --

-- WE/I BECAME SWARM!

SOON, WE/I FOUND OURSELVES AT ODDS WITH THE CHAMPIONS OF YOUR RACE --

-- THOSE THAT WOULD DENY US OUR RIGHT TO ASCEND THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER AND TAKE OUR PLACE --

-- AS THIS PLANET'S NEW DOMINANT SPECIES!

EVENTUALLY, WE/I DECIDED THAT, GIVEN TIME, MANKIND WOULD SOON DESTROY ITSELF --

-- AND WE/I HAD ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD!

WE/I WAITED...

... UNTIL WE/I WERE ATTACKED ONCE AGAIN -- ASSAULTED BY A PSIONIC STORM UNLEASHED BY YOUR KIND --

-- A MAELSTROM WHICH SEVERED THE TELEPATHIC BOND THAT REVERBERATES WITHIN OUR MUTANT COLONY!*

AND SO WE/I WERE DRAWN TO THE ORIGIN OF THE STORM --

* THE PSIONIC HURRICANE UNLEASHED BY **ONSLAUGHT IN X-MEN #56** – Referrin' Ralph.

-- AND IT IS HERE THAT YOU MUST USE YOUR EQUIPMENT TO RESTORE THE DAMAGED VIBRATORY RESONANCE!

WE/I MUST BE MADE COMPLETE -- WHOLE!

B-BUT -- WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEGUN TO ***EXPLORE*** THE VARIOUS VIBRATORY ***PLANES*** --

-- WE MIGHT CAUSE EVEN ***MORE DAMAGE*** --

YOU HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY TO ADJUST THE FIELD --

-- AND WE/I ARE A LIVING PART OF THE FIELD!

WE/I WILL ***INSTRUCT*** YOU IN THE COMPLETION OF THIS TASK -- AND YOU WILL DO IT --

-- OR YOU WILL DIE!

MEANWHILE, IN NEARBY FOREST HILLS --

SORRY ABOUT THE *HEAT*, MJ --

-- WHERE THE HOT NOON-DAY SUN BEATS DOWN ON TWO MORE MEMBERS OF OUR HAPPY LITTLE CAST -- PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER.

-- IT MUST BE MAKING YOU REALLY *UNCOMFORTABLE*.

Oh -- YOU MEAN *MORE* UNCOMFORTABLE THAN BEING *EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT* AND FEELING LIKE A *TICK* ABOUT TO *POP*?!

SIGH *SORRY*, HON, I DON'T MEAN TO BE *SNAPPY*. IT'S THE *HORMONES*, Y'KNOW?

Oh, PETER... LOOK AT ALL THIS *DAMAGE*!

EVERY *CONTRACTOR* IN THE TRI-STATE AREA MUST BE WORKING *OVERTIME* JUST TRYING TO PUT THE CITY BACK *TOGETHER*!

ONSLAUGHT.

HE MEANT TO *ENSLAVE* US. HE DESTROYED OUR CITY... *MURDERED* OUR *HEROES*...

... HE TOOK AWAY *SO MUCH*... I...

... I'M *SORRY*, HON -- DIDN'T MEAN TO *SKETCH* ON YOU LIKE THAT...

AFTER YOU, MILADY!

YOU'RE *SURE* YOU WANT TO DO THIS, THEN..?

Oh, MORE SURE THAN SURE.

Mr. AND Mrs. PARKER! HELLO!

WE ARE READY TO TAKE SOME *PICTURES*, NO?

MORE THAN READY, *Dr. HAJETI!*

I'M SO *EXCITED* I COULDN'T EVEN *SLEEP* LAST NIGHT...

TO BE EXPECTED.

MY *APOLOGIES*. THE *BELLY JELLY* IS COLD -- BUT NECESSARY TO GET A GOOD *PICTURE*.

I ALWAYS TELL THE BABY, "*SAY CHEESE!*"

AND THERE IT *IS*, THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR LITTLE BABY --

-- *GIRL!*

Okay, Miss DESIREE WINTHROP -- you wanna be FORWARD, you wanna be AGGRESSIVE? -- Well, I like that...

... I like that A LOT!

But you're NOT gonna catch me OFF-GUARD again! I'm not some stammering BONE-BRAIN...

... I can BANTER with the BEST of 'em!

Just enough time to throw some STUFF in the LAUNDRY --

-- SPIDER-SENSE?!

-- BATHROOM?!

-- SHOWER, SHAVE, and --

And do I smell --

-- CIGAR SMOKE..?

WHAT --

HEY!!

HEY, KID --

C'MON IN, THE WATER'S *FINE.*

J-JIMMY SIX! AND... Um...

THIS IS HARLEEN.

SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #70 – Good, clean, fun -- Ralf.

WHAT... *WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE..?!*

I'M *REBUILDIN'* MY *CARBURETOR!* C'MON, KID -- ISN'T IT *OBVIOUS?*

WHEN YOU SAVED MY *LIFE,* YOU SAID FOR ME TO DROP BY *ANYTIME...*

... WELL, *NOW* SEEMED AS GOOD A TIME AS *ANY.*

Y'KNOW -- I COULD HOOK YA UP WITH SOME BETTER *LOCKS...*

WELL --

-- Y'KNOW...

... NOW REALLY ISN'T A GOOD TIME! I'VE BEEN WORKING ALL DAY!

I'M HOT AND SWEATY! I'VE GOT A DATE --!

WELL, IF YA WANT, WE CAN LEAVE --

NO!

NONONO -- IT'S OKAY! STAY RIGHT --

HEY, KID, NO PROB! YOU GOTTA DATE, YOU TAKE THE BATHROOM...

I MEAN, IF WE'RE LIVIN' TOGETHER, WE'RE GONNA HAVETA SHARE... AM I RIGHT?

C'MON, HARL.

SURE THING, Mr. J --

-- BYE, CUTIE!

IN FRONT OF THE DAILY GRIND --

-- LATER THAT EVENING --

-- SLIGHTLY LATER THAN 7:00 --

BACK IN BUSINES

DESIREE!

Oh, MAN -- I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE!

THIS, Uh... FRIEND OF MINE DROPPED BY... WELL, HE'S NOT REALLY A FRIEND...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, BEN --

-- ACTUALLY, I WAS KINDA AFRAID I HAD SCARED YOU OFF BY BEING SO BOLD EARLIER.

I'VE REALIZED LATELY THAT SOMETIMES I GET LOST IN WHO I AM. EVERYONE ALWAYS EXPECTS ME TO BE THIS FLY FASHION CHICK --

-- TO BE ALL ABOUT MYSELF... BUT THAT'S NOT ME.

I... I DON'T MEAN TO BE SO BLUNT... BUT... I LIKE YOU, BEN -- AND I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU...

... AND I'D LIKE YOU TO GET TO KNOW ME. THE REAL ME.

WHOA!

Suddenly, there's more to DESIREE than I'd ever IMAGINED? And I like it.

Maybe we -- ZOINKS!

BEES!

REA

CLOUDS of them, CONVERGING over the CITY, BLOTTING OUT the sky!

And my SPIDER-SENSE is still going BLOOEY, so WHATEVER they're up to, it CAN'T BE GOOD!

ARE YOU OKAY?

Uh, YEAH... I...

SIRENS on the next block. The BEES must be causing a PANIC!

Have to find SOME WAY to TIP out of here -- become SPIDER-MAN!

Oh, GREAT! THERE GOES MY BEEPER!

BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANY --

PAGER

LOOK, DESIREE -- I'M REALLY SORRY. YOU GO ON, AND I'LL BE IN IN A MINUTE.

I'VE GOT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.

BUT... BUT...

... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A BEEPER.

AND, MOMENTS LATER --

BUSTA RHYMES

PANDEMONIUM.

The BEES don't seem to be ATTACKING anybody, but that's not stopping everybody from PANICKING ANYWAY!

PANICKING --

-- and ADDING to the BUILDING CHAOS!

JEN! LOOK OUT!

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

WE'RE DEAD WE'RE DEAD WE'RE --

HAMPTON MILK CO

THANKS, MAN!

ANYTIME.

Oh -- now THAT doesn't look good...

RMMBLL

SWISH

KRMMBLL

KIDS THESE DAYS, Huh? WITH THEIR LOUD MUSIC AND STAMPEDING EVERYWHERE THEY GO...

... Y'KNOW, WHEN I WAS A LAD --

SCREECH

Huh?!

Oh, great -- just what we NEEDED --

-- some RUBBERNUT in a Lamborghini who's DETERMINED to get away from these BEES --

-- even if he has to run down forty-five PEOPLE to do it!

KTANG

HOOOLD ON THERE, BABALOOIE!

I SAID, "STOP!"

GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FREAK! LET ME THROUGH OR I'LL POP YOU LIKE A...

Probably not ME --

-- but SOMEBODY'D get hurt!

Why is it that most of the people with GUNS in this city are full of hot --

Oh, Spidey -- you're BAD ...

THUMP

FWUMP

ERFF?!

THWIPP

NOW, TOUGH GUY -- STAY IN THE CAR, OKAY?

Can't waste my time by just QUELLING the riot, I have to find out what's making the bees CRAZY --

-- treat the CAUSE instead of the SYMPTOMS!

THWIP

And the best way to do that would be to FOLLOW THE BEES.

They all seem to be heading for the same PARTY!

HOLY --

It's Bees... and ...

... and ...

Ah, SPIDER--

--YOU ARRIVE TOO LATE--

--WE/I HAVE ALREADY SEIZED THIS EDIFICE OF HARMONIC VIBRATORY STUDIES--

--AND WITH IT, WE/I WILL RECLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE--

--AS MASTERS OF THIS PLANET! AND THERE IS--

--NOTHING--

---YOU CAN DO--

--TO STOP US!!

NEXT ISSUE

WHAT HE/THEY SAID!

MARVEL COMICS®

SPIDER-MAN®

NOV. '96 10

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

BUZZED!!

RING case

THE YOUNG LADY'S NAME IS **DESIREE WINTHROP** --

CURRENTLY SHE IS AT THE **NEDERLANDER THEATER** TRYING TO ENJOY A PRODUCTION OF THE BROADWAY MUSICAL, **RENT.**

RIGHT NOW, IT'S INTERMISSION.

SHE CAME HERE ON A DATE WITH A YOUNG MAN WHOM SHE FANCIES, NAMED BEN REILLY.

SHORTLY AFTER THEY ARRIVED, SOMETHING SUDDENLY **"CAME UP"** WHICH REQUIRED BEN'S **ATTENTION.** HE **EXCUSED** HIMSELF --

-- CLAIMING THAT HE'D RETURN IN A "FEW MINUTES."

THAT WAS ALMOST AN **HOUR** AGO.

SOME GIRLS WOULD BE MAD..!

THE SHOW IS ***DYNAMITE,*** BUT I CAN'T KEEP MY ***MIND*** ON IT... I KEEP ***ZONING...*** 'CAUSE ALL I CAN ***THINK*** ABOUT --

-- IS ***BEN!*** HE ***TOOK OFF*** OUT OF HERE SO ***QUICKLY...***

...I COULD TELL HE WAS... ***UNCOMFORTABLE.. PREOCCUPIED....***

JEEEZ --

-- THAT POOR MAN...

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE I HAD BEEN SO ***AGGRESSIVE*** WHEN I ASKED HIM OUT... BUT ***NOW...***

... NOW I ***KNOW*** WHY HE HAD TO LEAVE.

"I KNOW!"

BZZZZ

CRASK

YAAAH!

Stan Lee Presents

GLOBAL SWARMING

THIS IS SWARM --

-- THE MALEVOLENT HIVE-MIND THAT CONTROLS THIS MASSIVE COLONY OF MUTATED KILLER BEES!

ZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZ

CURRENTLY, HE/THEY HAVE COMMANDEERED (AND ENVELOPED) THE INSTITUTE OF SEISMOHARMONIC STUDIES HERE IN MANHATTAN --

-- AND ARE FORCING THE CAPTIVE SCIENTISTS WITHIN TO SET INTO MOTION EVENTS WHICH WILL SPELL CERTAIN DOOM FOR ALL MANKIND!

BZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZ

THIS IS BEN REILLY --

WOW.

-- CURRENTLY, HE'S WEARING A SPIDER-MAN COSTUME -

THAT'S BECAUSE HE IS --

-- THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!

YOU ARE TOO LATE, SPIDER --

-- THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME/US!

THAT SHOULD HAVE YOU PRETTY MUCH CAUGHT UP... ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS...?

DEZAGO
Writer
WIERINGO
Pencils
CASE
Inks
COMICRAFT
Letters
WRIGHT
Colors
GCW
hancement
CCHIO
litor

HARRAS
he Bee's Knees

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ALL THESE **BEES** HAVE BEEN **MIGRATING** INTO NEW YORK OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS --

-- AND THEY'RE **STILL COMING!... FEEDING** THIS **SWARM-GUY...** WHO SOUNDS LIKE HE **KNOWS** ME...

THWIP

... OR RATHER, **SPIDER-MAN! PETER** MUST HAVE **THROWN DOWN** WITH **SWARMY** HERE, WHEN **HE** WAS WEARING THE **WEBSHOOTERS!**

AND HE MUST HAVE KICKED SOME SERIOUS **BEE BUTT..!**

... 'CAUSE THESE GUYS ARE GOING **WAY** OUTTA THEIR WAY TO GET OUTTA **MINE!!**

YEP. THEY'RE AVOIDING ME LIKE I DOUSED MY COSTUME IN **RAID!**

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT PETER PARKER DID, WAY BACK IN SPECTACULAR **SPIDER-MAN** #36 – Repellent Ralf.

BUT, BEFORE I **SWING** IN WITH **BOTH FEET,** I THINK I WANNA TRY ONE MORE **TEST** OF MY LITTLE **"GENETIC MEMORY" THEORY.**

Oh, **YEAH...** THEY DON'T LIKE **ME...**

... THAT'S GONNA MAKE THINGS A **WHOLE LOT** EASIER! **THANK YOU,** PETER PARKER...

"...WHEREVER YOU ARE!"

THE FOREST HILLS HOME OF PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER.

... GONNA BE THE CUTEST LITTLE NURSERY FOR OUR LITTLE GIRL.

PARKER

U.S. MAIL

HONEY

HOW YOU DOING, SWEETIE?

Oh, I'VE GOT THE EASY PART --

OF COURSE, I'D BE HAPPY TO PAINT THE CEILING, ... IF I COULD STICK TO WALLS LIKE YOU DO!

HEY, BABY -- YOU GOT THE LOOKS, I GOT THE SPIDER-POW --

-- NO, I DOON'T!

LOOK OUT!

-- Uh Oh.

SPIDER-SENSE SAYS --

SPLOOSH

HAHAHAHA-- Oh, WHERE'S THE *VIDEO CAMERA* WHEN YOU *NEED* IT..?! BOB SAGET WOULD'VE *LOVED* THAT!!

Y'KNOW, I SHOULD HAVE *SEEN* THAT COMING -- SINCE MY *SPIDER-POWERS* HAVEN'T RETURNED *COMPLETELY* YET --

-- MY *SPIDER-SENSE* HAS HAD MORE OF A *SPIDER-SENSE OF HUMOR!*

Heh, Heh. I'M SORRY, HONEY. DON'T WORRY. THEY'LL BE BACK.

DID YOU *HURT* YOURSELF?

Mmmm, THAT *DEPENDS*... WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I *DID..?*

I GUESS I'D HAVE TO *KISS IT* AND MAKE IT *BETTER.*

Oh, THEN I'M *HURT.*

HONEY

Mmmm

Hmmmm... NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM, Huh? WE'LL *SEE* ABOUT *THAT!*

NOT THAT I HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT SWARMY IS *UP TO*, BUT WITH THAT *CONDESCENDING TONE* --

-- AND THAT "YOU'RE- NOTHING-MORE-TO-ME-THAN-AN, *INSIGNIFICANT-SPECK*" ATTITUDE --

-- WELL...

... LET'S JUST SAY MY INTEREST IS *PIQUED!*

AND SINCE "*BEE FACE*" IS *IGNORING* ME --

-- AND THE *BEES* THEMSELVES ARE *AFRAID* OF ME --

BZZZZZZZ

-- LET'S SEE IF THIS *SPIDER* CAN STIR *UP* THE *HORNET'S NEST!*

SHOOP

I'M IN!...

...AND, BOY, DOES THIS FEEL... *CREEPY!*

OF COURSE, WHAT DID I *EXPECT*, JUMPING INTO A *LIVING DOME* MADE UP OF *BILLIONS* OF *KILLER BEES?!*

THIS IS THAT *SEISMIC RESEARCH* PLACE... I READ A *PIECE* ON IT IN *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN...*

...THEY MONITOR THE *WEB* OF *VIBRATORY PATTERNS* THAT EXIST IN *EVERY SINGLE THING* ON THE PLANET... *ANIMAL, MINERAL, VEGETABLE...*

...THIS PLACE IS USUALLY ***BUZZING*** -- NO PUN INTENDED --

-- WITH ***ACTIVITY.*** LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET ***INSIDE*** AND FIND OUT WHERE ALL THE ***COOL SCIENTISTS*** HANG!

BINGO!

... PUTTING OUT A ***SIGNAL*** OF 1400 ***R.P.N'S,*** WE'RE ***AUGMENTING*** THE PATTERN AT ***20%.*** THAT'S OUR ***CEILING,*** MATT -- WE CAN'T ***MEND*** THE FIELD ANY ***FASTER!***

AT THAT ***RATE,*** SWARM WILL HAVE ***FULL CAPABILITY*** IN JUST UNDER AN ***HOUR*** -- AND HE'LL...***THEY'LL*** BECOME ONE OF THE MOST ***POWERFUL FORCES ON EARTH!***

HI! I'M THE ***ORKIN MAN!*** SOMEBODY CALL ABOUT A BEE PROBLEM..?!

SPIDER-MAN?!

YUP. WHAT'S THE ***SCOOP*** HERE?

HE'S HAVING US USE OUR NEW ***HARMONICS GENERATOR*** TO ***REPAIR*** A RECENTLY ***DAMAGED VIBRATORY FIELD*** --*

-- THE ONE HE USES TO ***COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY*** WITHIN HIS ***COLONY*** OF ***MUTANT KILLER BEES!***

THIS... ***"BEING"*** CALLED SWARM, ***CONTROLS*** THE BEES. HE'S HOLDING US ***HOSTAGE,*** FORCING US TO DO HIS ***BIDDING...***

*CAUSED BY THE PSIONIC HURRICANE UNLEASHED BY **ONSLAUGHT** IN **X-MEN** #56 - Repetitious Ralf.

HE ALSO HAS US *EXPANDING* THAT *SPECTRUM* -- *INCREASING* HIS *TELEPATHIC INFLUENCE* -- MAKING HIM *STRONGER!*

VERY SHORTLY, SPIDER-MAN -- ONCE THIS *READOUT* HITS 25.68 --

22.10

-- *SWARM* WILL HAVE *CONTROL* OVER *EVERY BEE IN THE WORLD!*

DID HE... *THEY...* SAY WHAT WOULD *HAPPEN* IF YOU JUST *REFUSED* TO DO IT?

IF WE *REFUSED..?!* I DON'T THINK *SWAAAH* --

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN --

AAAAHH!

-- THEY WOULD DIE! A HORRIBLE AND PAINFUL DEATH --

-- FROM WITHIN --

-- IS WHAT THEY WILL EXPERIENCE IF THEY DO NOT RETURN TO REPAIRING MY/OUR VIBRATORY STREAM -- -- IMMEDIATELY!

AKK AKK-K

GET OUT OF HIM, SWARM... NOW!

LET THIS SERVE AS A WARNING!

COME.

Ahhh. Hunh. GASP

I/WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FURTHER INTERRUPTIONS!

LISTEN, YOU GUYS -- I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO BUT I'VE GOT AN ***IDEA...!***

IF I REMEMBER MY ***BIOLOGY*** -- AND I THINK I ***DO*** -- ***BEES*** DON'T FLY LIKE ***BIRDS*** DO -- THEY DON'T ***RIDE*** THE AIR CURRENTS --

SO... WITH THAT IN MIND --

-- THEY ***CUT THROUGH THEM*** BY MOVING THEIR WINGS SO ***FAST*** THEY CREATE A ***VIBRATORY PATTERN*** THAT THEY ***RIDE ON!***

SAME GOES FOR ***HUMMINGBIRDS.***

-- DO YOU THINK ANY OF THIS ***FANCY EQUIPMENT*** COULD ...

...I DON'T KNOW... ***DISRUPT*** THAT?

YYYEAH, WE COULD DO THAT... BUT...

... BUT ALL THE ***COMPONENTS*** WE'D NEED ARE ***HUGE*** AND THEY'D HAVE TO BE MOVED TO THE ***ROOF*** AND THEY'D HAVE TO BE ***SUSPENDED,*** NOT ***GROUNDED*** BECAUSE ---

WHOA! WHOA! WHOA! ***SLOW DOWN,*** KEMO-SABE! AS LONG AS I KNOW WE CAN DO IT, JUST SHOW ME WHAT TO DO...

...'CAUSE ***TIME*** IS ***RUNNING OUT!***

SHORTLY --

POWERING *DOWN.*

TEK TEK TEK

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY -- HERE WE GO.

LET'S SEE IF *THIS* PUTS A *BEE* IN SWARM'S *BONN* --

WHAT DID YOU DO, HUMAN..?! I/WE TOLD YOU --

-- I/WE ARE CONNECTED TO THE VIBRATORY PLANE THAT YOUR MACHINES HUM TO RESTORE -- I/WE ARE A PART OF IT! AND IT IS MY/OUR TIME TO GROW STRONGER!

MY/OUR BRETHREN -- AS WITH ALL THE CREATURES OF THIS PLANET -- BLINDLY TRUST MANKIND, CERTAIN THAT HUMANS WILL DO THE RIGHT THING...

... BUT I/WE WAS HUMAN ONCE *MYSELF.* I/WE KNOW NOT TO TRUST HUMANS.

AND NOW YOU SEEK TO STOP ME/US?! TO WEAKEN ME/US?!

N-NO. IT'S-IT'S *JUST...*

... THE *GENERATOR* CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS VOLUME OF *OUTPUT.* WE'VE HAD TO *SLOW* IT *DOWN -- SET IT BACK --* WE'RE *TAXING* ITS *CAPABILITIES --*

-- AND THE GROWING NUMBER OF BEES IS MAKING IT ALMOST *IMPOSSIBLE* TO *PROJECT* THE *VIBRATORY SIGNAL!*

WE CAN DO IT! WE HAVE THE ***TECHNOLOGY!*** BUT MUCH OF THAT ***EQUIPMENT*** IS ***TOO HEAVY! NO WAY*** COULD ***ANY OF US*** GET THAT STUFF UP TO THE --

NO! THE PSIONIC FIELD MUST BE RESTORED! I/WE NEED... NEED...

... YOU! SPIDER-MAN!

ME..?!

YOU WILL USE YOUR VAUNTED STRENGTH TO TRANSPORT THE UNITS TO THE ROOF! YOU WILL CONSTRUCT THE RELAY GENERATOR!

AND YOU WILL DO IT, OR --

WHA -- HEY!

BZZZZZ

NO! WAIT! -- I'LL *DO* IT.

LET HIM GO.

HE BOUGHT IT.

REELED HIM IN.

AND MOMENTS LATER --

-- AS BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF BEES CONTINUE TO SWARM INTO MANHATTAN --

-- ADDING THEIR NUMBER TO THE SWIRLING MAELSTROM THAT NOW TOWERS OVER THE CITY...

... SPIDER-MAN BEGINS A MOST ARDUOUS TASK --

-- AND A RACE AGAINST SWARM'S GROWING POWER!

THWIP

THWIP

THWAP

THWAP

22.57

23.68

WE'VE GOT TO HURRY...

HEY, MATT --

-- WE WILL GET ALL THE CABLE CHANNELS ON THIS THING... RIGHT?

WE'RE CUTTING THIS TOO CLOSE...! WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!!

24.89

EASY, SNACKY -- WE'LL MAKE IT.

25.51

OKAY -- THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE LAST PIECE! -- WE'RE READY, RIGHT?

AND YOU SAY THE ONLY SIDE AFFECT THIS THING COULD POSSIBLY HAVE IS THAT ANYONE WHO'S PSI-SENSITIVE MIGHT GET A MOMENTARY MIGRAINE..?!

YES! YES! AN INSTANT OF PAIN AND --

OMIGOD! THE READOUT'S AT 25.66!!

IF WE'VE ANY HOPE TO NEUTRALIZE SWARM, WE HAVE TO KNOCK THE BEES OUT OF THE SKY NOW! DO IT, SPIDER-MAN! FLIP THE SWITCH!

WHAT --?!

NO! MANKIND HAD ITS CHANCE... AND FAILED!! IT IS MY/OUR TURN TO BE DOMINANT --! IT IS MY/OUR TIME --!

I/WE WILL ELIMINATE THE CANCER THAT IS HUMANITY! I/WE WILL RETURN THIS PLANET TO THE GARDEN! I/WE HAVE WAITED! IT IS MY/OUR TIME!

SORRY, SWARMY --

-- TIME'S UP!

TAP

AT FIRST, THERE IS NOTHING --

-- AND THEN --

-- IT RADIATES OUT IN A **WAVE** -- A SHORT **BURST** OF **HARMONIC ENERGY** AKIN TO AN **ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE** --

-- TARGETING THE SPECIFIC **VIBRATORY PATTERN** --

-- DISRUPTING IT --

-- INSTANTLY -- AND **SIMPLY** -- ROBBING THE **BEES** OF THEIR ABILITY TO **FLY!**

IT IS **FELT** IMMEDIATELY.

NO.

TO MOST, IT IS A SUDDEN... **ODDNESS**... IN THE AIR.

TO SOME, A SHARP AND PAINFUL **STING** AT THE CENTER OF THEIR BRAIN.

PSYCHIC FR

... AND YOUR LUCKY LOTTO NUMBERS ARE -- ***AAEEEII!***

TO ONE WHO IS MANY, IT IS... AN **END.**

IT WAS MY/OUR TIMMEE...

A FEW AT FIRST...

AND THEN, IT IS **RAINING BEES!**

... AND THEN A TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR --

-- A VERITABLE TIDAL WAVE OF BEES --

-- POURING LIKE AN AVALANCHE COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!

UNGH!

JEAN!? WHAT IS IT?!

I DON'T KNOW, SCOTT -- A SUDDEN PSIONIC DISTURBANCE... BUT IT'S GONE NOW.

AND IN THE TIME IT TAKES FOR THE LETHARGIC AND DISORIENTED BEES TO FALL...

... IT IS OVER!

Ungh! MIGRAINE'S GOING AWAY --

-- BUT NOW I HAVE A NOSEBLEED! WHAT A NIGHT!

THE BEES ARE ALL RIGHT..?

JUST A LITTLE DOPEY -- THEY'RE NOT GONNA BE PARTYING LIKE THAT AGAIN FOR A WHILE!

-- AHA! --

-- THERE SHE IS!

C'MON, SWARMY -- I KNOW YOU MUST'VE KEPT HER CLOSE BY... NOW, WHERE DID --

SOMETIME LATER --

... OUTSIDE THE ***INSTITUTE OF SEISMOHARMONIC STUDIES*** WHERE THE ***CAPTIVE EMPLOYEES*** ARE BEING ESCORTED OUT BY ***EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.***

SIR? ***TRISH TILBY,*** EYEWITNESS NEWS -- CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT ***HAPPENED*** -- HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO ***OVERCOME*** THE ***BEES?!***

UH... UM, THE BEES AREN'T DEAD -- JUST STUNNED. THEY WERE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A BEING CALLED SWARM!

WE WERE ABLE TO UNDERMINE HIS POWER USING SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT WE HAVE IN THE INSTITUTE.

BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY SPIDER-MAN WHO SAVED US! IT WAS HIS IDEA WE USED TO NEUTRALIZE SWARM -- HE ERECTED THE GENERATOR --

-- HE'S THE HERO!

BAH!

HE ALSO LOCATED THE HIVE'S QUEEN! WITH HER IN THE CARE OF THE AUTHORITIES, IT IS BELIEVED THAT SWARM CAN POSE NO FURTHER THREAT!

THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT TELL ME --

-- WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN NOW..?!

MAN -- I AM IN SOME DEEP WEB-FLUID!

I TOLD DESIREE THAT I'D BE BACK IN A FEW MINUTES -- AND THAT WAS --

Oh, GREAT! THE SHOW IS JUST LETTING OUT -- I MISSED THE WHOLE THING!

I AM SO BUSTED!

AND JUST WHEN I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK THAT DESIREE AND I MIGHT --

"-- THERE SHE IS.

"WHAT DO I SAY..? WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY SAY..?"

DESIREE?

I...Uh... I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME... Um, BUT...

... Um, I'M SORRY, I REALLY AM, AND --

IT'S OKAY.

W-WHAT?

I SAID, IT'S OKAY -- I UNDERSTAND.

YOU WERE GONE FOR SO LONG, IT LEFT ME WITH A LOT OF TIME TO THINK...

... ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT SO HARD ABOUT IT, I GAVE MYSELF A HEADACHE...

... BUT I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, BEN -- THE TRUTH IS --

-- I ***KNOW*** WHY YOU HAD TO LEAVE..!

Y-YOU ***DO..?!***

SURE! YOU'RE NOT ***COMFORTABLE*** WITH THIS, ARE YOU? IT'S BEEN SO SOON AFTER ***JESSICA*** THAT YOU'RE JUST NOT READY FOR ***ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP...***

... WELL, ***THIS*** KIND OF RELATIONSHIP...

I-I'M ***NOT..?***

NO... BUT THAT'S ***OKAY.*** I ***LIKE YOU,*** BEN. YOU MAKE ME ***LAUGH.*** AND I CAN ***WAIT.*** AND IF YOU'LL ***LET ME,*** I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU ***THROUGH THIS...***

... I WANNA BE YOUR ***FRIEND.***

SMEK

OKAY...?

WHOA.

THE WESLEY WILLIS FASCINATION

Oh-MAN-Oh MAN-Oh-MAN-Oh-MAN-Oh-MAN-Oh-MAN-Oh-MAN-Oh-MAN

NOT QUITE MEANWHILE --

... TAKING CARE OF THAT ***RIGHT NOW.***

OSBORN

-- IN THE ***SELDOM-USED*** OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OSBORN INDUSTRIES IN ABSENTIA, ***LIZ OSBORN.***

YES. YES, FOGGY, NOW YOU ***ARE*** STARTING TO SOUND LIKE MY ***LAWYER..!***

OKAY... SEE YOU ***LATER.*** BYE!

Ms. ***OSBORN...?*** YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

YES, Mr. ***MENKEN,*** HELLO. PLEASE ***COME IN.***

AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, Mr. MENKEN, I'M SURE THAT YOU'RE ***AWARE*** OF THE RECENT ***"DEVELOPMENTS"*** AT OUR SUBSIDIARY, THE MULTIVEX CORPORATION...

THIS IS A LIST OF SEVERAL MULTIVEX EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING ***ONE, SEWARD TRAINER,*** WHO APPARENTLY PLAYED A ***LARGE PART*** IN THIS ***FIASCO...***

I'D LIKE ***EACH*** OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ***PERSONNEL FILES*** MADE ***AVAILABLE*** TO ME ***AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.***

ALIZ OSBORN

AS SEEN IN **SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #5 & AMAZING #412** – Ralf.

CERTAINLY, Ms. OSBORN... ***NOT A PROBLEM.***

I'LL HAVE THEM ***TRANSFERRED*** OVER TO YOU WITHIN THE ***HOUR.***

THAT'LL BE ***FINE.*** THANK YOU, Mr. MENKEN.

BE ***VERY*** CAREFUL WHERE YOU'RE ***DIGGING,*** MS. OSBORN... LEST YOU ***DISCOVER*** SOMETHING THAT COULD COST YOU VERY DEARLY...!

THE END

IN *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #240*, "REVELATIONS" PART 1, BEN'S FRIEND DR. SEWARD TRAINER WAS FORCED TO REVIVE A VILLAIN CALLED GAUNT FOR A MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND WHO HAD BEEN TARGETING BEN AND PETER FOR SOME TIME. SEWARD IMPLIED THAT HE WAS ALSO MADE TO INTERFERE IN THE TEST THAT DETERMINED WHICH OF THEM WAS THE CLONE. WHEN SEWARD DISCOVERED THE MASTERMIND'S IDENTITY HE TRIED TO WARN BEN, BUT GAUNT AND THE MASTERMIND KILLED HIM. MEANWHILE, A MENACING WOMAN NAMED ALISON MONGRAIN TOOK A JOB AT THE DAILY GRIND…

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

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REVELATIONS PART 2 of 4

The SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

THE SECRET OF GAUNT!

...OKAY, THEN -- WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE *DAILY GRIND* AT FOUR-THIRTY --

-- I LOVE YOU *TOO*, TIGER ... BYE.

PHONE

IT'S *ALL SET.* WE'RE NOT MEETING PETER AND BEN UNTIL *4:30* --

-- WHICH GIVES US *AT LEAST* ANOTHER HOUR AND A HALF THAT WE CAN SPEND AT *MACY'S!*

UNDER REPAIR

THE YOUNG LADY'S NAME IS **MARY JANE PARKER.**

OUT ON A **SHOPPING ADVENTURE** WITH HER **AUNT ANNA.** SHE HAS NEVER FELT SO **WONDERFUL** IN HER LIFE --

-- **ENVELOPED** IN THE **JOY** OF THE **CHILD** SHE CARRIES **WITHIN HER!** ALL IS **RIGHT** WITH THE **WORLD!**

SHE IS IN THE **NINTH MONTH** OF HER PREGNANCY --

-- WE WOULDN'T WANT TO *MISS OUT!*

...MERE **STORIES** ABOVE...

-- IN **LOVE** WITH HER **SENSATIONAL HUSBAND,** PETER --

-- AND, ALTHOUGH SHE DOESN'T **KNOW IT** --

-- SHE IS ALSO IN **TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE DANGER!**

FOR AT THIS MOMENT...

...NOW THAT YOU'VE *DISPOSED* OF *TRAINER'S BODY* --*

THEN WE'D BEST GET GOING, DEAR --

-- I WANT YOU TO *KILL REILLY,* TOO!

THIS CHARADE HAS GONE ON *LONG ENOUGH!*

*SEWARD TRAINER WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN 240 -- "**REVELATIONS**" PART I -- Rigor Mortis Ralf.

DO IT AS I SAID! I WANT BEN REILLY SLAIN RIGHT BEFORE PETER PARKER'S EYES!

WE'LL TEACH THAT PATHETIC LITTLE WASTE THE PENALTY FOR DARING TO HAVE A LIFE!

NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN REVIVIFIED FROM THAT GAUNT AND ATROPHIED FORM, IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT YOU --

-- IN YOUR IMPRESSIVE, NEW ROBOTIC ARMOR --

-- BE PERMITTED TO TIE UP THESE ANNOYING LOOSE ENDS!

GO! KILL REILLY! DO WHAT YOU MUST WITH PARKER SHORT OF KILLING HIM, TOO. KEEP HIM OCCUPIED. I DON'T WANT HIM NEAR HIS WIFE TONIGHT! DO THESE THINGS...

...AND, MENDEL...

...DON'T FAIL ME!

IT WILL BE DONE!

THEY CAN'T DO THIS..!

THE OFFICE OF J.JONAH JAMESON...

... AN *EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING..?* AT 11:30 AT NIGHT..?

ON HALLOWEEN, FOR PETE'S SAKE!

THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!* AN *OUTRAGE!*

I'M THE *EDITOR, PUBLISHER,* AND OWNER OF THIS PAPER! I'M *PRESIDENT* OF THAT *BOARD OF DIRECTORS!*

IF THEY THINK THEY CAN *GET AWAY* WITH ISSUING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, DEMANDING MY ATTENDANCE --

-- *SERVING* ME WITH IT LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF BLASTED *SUBPOENA...*

... WELL, THEN, I'LL *TELL YOU* SOMETHING, ROBBIE -- THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER *THINK* COMING!

IT'S THEIR *RIGHT* TO CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING, JONAH --

-- AND WITH THE RECENT *LAYOFFS* AND *FINANCIAL STATUS* OF THE PAPER, THEY MUST FEEL THAT IT'S NECESSARY...

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I GOT ONE, TOO.

BAH!

JONAH..?

JONAH, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

-- GRUMBLE GRUMBLE --

... LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...

--YOU THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE ELEVATORS?!

OUT OF ORDER

OUT OF ORDER

BUGLE MAINT. DEPT.

MEN WORKING

CAUTION

SEE THESE "OUTTA ORDER" SIGNS..? THAT MEANS THE ELEVATORS ARE... "BROKEN!"

WE'RE HERE T'FIX 'EM. WE'RE PROB'LY GONNA BE HERE TILL THEY'RE NOT "BROKEN" ANYMORE...

GEDDIT..?

WAUGH!

DON'T GET FLIP WITH ME, TOUGH GUY! I'LL HAVE YOUR JOB!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH..!

BUGLE MAINT. DEPT

I'M J.JONAH JAMESON, THE EDITOR, PUBLISHER, AND OWNER OF THIS PAPER, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOME BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH.

THE PARKER HOME IN NEARBY FOREST HILLS --

WAIT! A MINUTE! WE CAN'T GO YET... I...

...WHERE'D I LEAVE THAT THING..?

FTP

FTP

IS *THIS* IT?

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REVELATIONS

PART 2 of 4

TODD DEZAGO Words
MIKE WIERINGO & RICHARD CASE Art
RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT Letters
GREGORY WRIGHT Colors
GCW Enhancement
RALPH MACCHIO Editor
MARK BERNARDO Consulting Editor
BOB HARRAS Chief Spider

DEADLY DIVERSIONS

A STAN LEE Presentation

THUNT

YEAH, *THAT'S* IT -- THANKS, BEN.

SO *THIS* KEEPS YOU WIRED *INTO* MARY JANE..?

YEAH, *Y'KNOW* --

-- SO SHE CAN *GET* IN *TOUCH* WITH ME IF SHE GOES INTO *LABOR* WHILE I'M AT *WORK* OR SOMETHING...

COOL.

Y'KNOW, PETE -- I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I *ADMIRE* YOU -- YOUR ABILITY TO *SURVIVE.*

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH *SO MUCH!* BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU GET *THROWN* AT YOU --

-- YOU *BOUNCE BACK!* YOU'VE GOT A GREAT *LIFE,* A WONDERFUL *WIFE,* A *BABY* ON THE WAY.. I REALLY ENVY YOU, MAN...

.. *AND,* I *CAN'T WAIT* TO BE AN *UNCLE!*

YOU LEFT OUT THAT I'VE GOT A GREAT *"BROTHER"* TOO -- AND IT MEANS A *LOT* TO ME THAT YOU'RE *HERE* TO BE A *PART* OF IT.

AW, DUDE...

A BIT LATER --

MAN, SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE THE CITY IS *NEVER* GONNA RECOVER FROM ALL THE *DAMAGE* CAUSED BY *ONSLAUGHT!*

YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE *MATERIAL THINGS* THAT NEED TO BE REBUILT. IT'S THINGS YOU CAN'T *TOUCH,* AS WELL...

...THINGS LIKE *HOPE*.

THE *FF*, THE *AVENGERS* -- THEY GAVE PEOPLE HOPE -- A SENSE OF *SECURITY*. PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM...

... BUT JUST KNOWING THEY WERE *THERE* GAVE PEOPLE A FEELING THAT THEY WERE *SAFE*... *PROTECTED*...

BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE *GONE*...

... THE WORLD NEEDS HEROES.

YEAH... AND NEW YORK NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN *GET*. MAYBE IT COULD EVEN USE...

...I DON'T KNOW...

... *TWO SPIDER-MEN..?*

Y'KNOW, IT'S A *FUNNY THING* ABOUT US BEING THE *SAME GUY*...

...I *KNEW* YOU WERE GONNA SAY THAT!

ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO ***ADMIT*** I HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ***MYSELF*** --

-- BUT YOU'VE GOT ***NEW RESPONSIBILITIES*** NOW, PETE. ***MARY JANE***, THE ***BABY***... NOT TO MENTION THAT YOUR POWERS TEND TO CUT OUT WHEN YOU NEED THEM ***THE MOST!***

NO ***THEY DON'T!***

THEY'VE ALMOST FULLY RETURNED AND I --

BUSTED!

MARY JANE TOLD ME THAT YOU FELL OFF THE CEILING! ***SORRY***, PAL -- NOBODY IN THE CLUB IF YA CAN'T STAY ON THE ***CEILING!***

Oh, YEAH..?

CHECK IT ***OUT!***

JEEZ -- PETER..!?

CHILL. MY SPIDER-SENSE IS WORKING... I KNEW NOBODY WAS WATCHING!

BUT LOOK, BEN -- MY POWERS ARE BACK! -- I'M BACK!

YEAH, YEAH, O-KAY... BUT COULD YOU GET DOWN NOW...

... BEFORE YOUR PICTURE SHOWS UP IN THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS...?!

MANHATTAN, THE 28TH PRECTINT...

HALLOWEEN!

WHAT A DAY TO ROLL BACK INTO *TOWN*. I HAVEN'T BEEN *BACK HERE* SINCE...

...THE COPS MUST BE GOING CRAZY *THEMSELVES* TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE *WACKOS* THAT ARE OUT THERE *TODAY!*

28

NYPD

WHAT'S THE *CHARGE?*

SOLICITATION.

EVEN THE *TRICKS* ARE PLAYING TRICKS.

LOOKS LIKE THE *SAME OLD PLACE*, THOUGH. MAYBE *NOW* I CAN START GETTING SOME *ANSWERS* TO MY *QUESTIONS* --

-- AND FINALLY *UNCOVER* SOME INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP ME *NAIL* THAT *WALL-CRAWLER* TO THE *WALL!*

DETECTIVE TREVANE..?

YEAH... DO I *KNOW* YOU?

NO -- BUT I BELIEVE WE SHARE A *COMMON INTEREST...*

WE SPOKE ON THE PHONE. I'M *ARTHUR STACY.* YOU WORKED WITH MY BROTHER.

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD BRING ME *UP TO SPEED* ON --

-- *SPIDER-MAN!*

THE HOBOKEN APARTMENT OF FLASH THOMPSON --

FEDEX..?!

WHO'S SENDING ME ANYTHING *FEDEX..?*

Oh, MAN -- I HOPE THIS ISN'T A *LAYOFF NOTICE!*

IT TOOK ME *FOREVER* TO FINALLY FIND THIS *GYM TEACHER* GIG HERE IN *JER* --

WELL, *WHADDAYA KNOW! --!*

-- AN INVITATION TO A *HALLOWEEN PARTY* TONIGHT AT HE *BUGLE*...

...SIGNED, *"ANONYMOUS..?"*

... WELL *THANKS,* PETEY-OLD-PAL! I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE *WORLD!* I MIGHT EVEN GET A CHANCE TO *REDEEM* MYSELF WITH --

"-- BETTY BRANT!"

...*"RELIABLE INSIDE SOURCE FOR MY CITY HALL STORY?"... "NEW INFO"...*

...*"TONIGHT AT THE BUGLE"...*
"TEN TO MIDNIGHT?"...

...SIGNED, *"O."*

fedEx Federal Express

"O?!" WHO'S *"O?!?"*

...I'M TELLING YA, ***THEY'RE BACK!*** AND EVEN IF MY POWERS ***SHOULD*** HAPPEN TO ***CUT OUT*** --

-- WHICH IS ***RARE*** --

-- MY ***SPIDER-SENSE*** TIPS ME OFF ***AHEAD OF TIME*** -- SO I'M ***READY*** FOR IT -- I CAN ***COMPENSATE!***

AND THERE'S NO REASON WHY -

ALL RIGHT, ***ALL RIGHT ALREADY!*** -- OKAY. MAYBE YOU'RE ***RIGHT*** --

YESSS!

-- BUT I'M GONNA BE ***WATCHING*** YOU! ONE ***CLOSE CALL*** -- YOU'RE ***HISTORY!***

I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ***MY*** LITTLE BROTHER -

K-BLANG

JEEZ

-- LOUISE!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

I DUNNO, BUT --

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR *THOR* AND *CAPTAIN AMERICA*, YOU STINKIN', SLIMEY, *SENTINEL!*

I WILL DESTROY-YOU-BOTH!

Huh?

KIDS?

HEY!

Huh?

WHA --?

YOU'RE THE DAD -- *YOU* TELL 'EM.

DON'T YOU KIDS KNOW THIS PLACE IS *DANGEROUS!?* ONE OF THESE *WALLS* LETS GO AND THE ENTIRE *ROOF* WILL COME DOWN *ON YOUR HEADS!*

I'M *SORRY* TO *WRECK* YOUR *GAME*, BUT YOU GOTTA FINISH IT *OUTSIDE!*

AW, MAN.

OKAY, SO WHY IS MY ***SPIDER-SENSE*** STILL --

REILLY!

OH MY G --

SURELY, I HAVEN'T **TRULY BURIED** SPIDE ---

BEN... CAUGHT UNDER THE ***RUBBLE!*** BUT ***FIRST*** THINGS -- GOTTA GET THESE ***KIDS*** --

NOPE. JUST SLIPPING INTO SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE... ***VERSATILE.***

CHKK

CHK

-- OUT! OUTTA HERE!

DON'T ASSUME THAT YOU CAN EVADE MY PARTICLE GRENADES INDEFINITELY, REILLY! MY ARMCANNON IS COMPUTER-GUIDED--

-- AND IS ALREADY CALCULATING YOUR NEXT MOVE!

FUT FUT FUT

TOOM TOOM

TOOM

WHOA!

WELL, RUSTY -- I'VE GOT MY OWN INTERNAL COMPUTER TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THE *HAIL* OF ENERGY BURSTS...

...MY *SPIDER-SENSE!*

HE'S *RIGHT*, THOUGH, HE'S GETTING *CLOSER* AND CLOSER! HE'S GOT ME *ON THE RUN* --!

--"AND I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP *FOREVER.*"

AND NOW I NEED TO BE *EXTRA* CAREFUL, SINCE MY SPIDER-SENSE AND POWERS *FADED OUT* ONLY MOMENTS AGO...

...JUST LIKE BEN *SAID*...

...JUST WHEN I NEED THEM MOST...

MISTER..? EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE *ALL RIGHT*...

...*ISN'T IT?*

THE DAILY GRIND...

WHERE *ARE* THOSE TWO?!

WELL, YOU KNOW *PETER,* DEAR -- HE'S RARELY ON TIME FOR *ANYTHING!*

AND THAT *BEN* SEEMS TO BE *JUST LIKE HIM.*

WELL, I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

I'VE GOT TO GET SOMETHING *TO TIDE* ME *OVER* TILL THEY GET HERE.

COULD I HAVE A BOWL OF THAT DELICIOUS *CHICKEN GUMBO, PLEASE... JUST* FOR... *NOW...*

I AM *FAMISHED!*

...AND SOME *CRACKERS?*

VERY WELL, MA'AM --

-- COMING *RIGHT UP!*

GIVE UP, REILLY -- AND I'LL MAKE IT QUICK!

SOOF!

RESIGN YOURSELF TO THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T CONTINUE AT THIS PACE --

-- THAT YOUR DEATH IS IMMINENT!

AND WITH YOUR DEATH, MY DEBT WILL FINALLY BE PAID TO MY... HMMM...

...MALEVOLENT BENEFACTOR!

Y'KNOW -- YOU KEEP ***CALLING*** ME BY ***NAME***... AS IF WE ***MET*** SOMEPLACE ***BEFORE***, AND WELL, I DON'T MEAN TO BE ***RUDE***, BUT --

-- DO I KNOW YOU?!

OH, YES. SPIDER-MAN KNEW ME ONCE, LONG AGO... BUT THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY! MORE RECENTLY YOU KNEW ME AS --

-- GAUNT!

GAUNT! THAT ***SHRIVELED LITTLE MANIAC*** IN THE ***LIFE-SUPPORT SUIT!*** THE ONE WHO WAS SO DESPERATE TO ***KILL*** ME! THE ONE WHO WAS WORKING WITH...

...***SEWARD.***

DID ***HE*** CAUSE SEWARD TO BETRAY ME..? DID ***HE***..?

WAK

KRAKK

HOOF

UNGH!

WHOA!

WELL, WE'RE *NOT* GETTING OUT *THAT* WAY!

UNLESS... THAT'S *IT*, PARKER -- *SECRET IDENTITY* BE *HANGED!* I *GOTTA* GET THESE *KIDS OUTTA HERE!*

NOW, IF I CAN JUST HUNH! CONVINCE MY *SPIDER-POWERS* TO *COME BACK... UNGH..!*

WHA- *Huh?!*

THEY'RE ***BACK!*** MY SPIDER-POWERS, ARE ***BACK!***

AND SO IS MY ***SPIDER-SENSE,*** BUT WHY IS IT ***HOWLING*** LIKE --

OBOY. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF ***THIS.***

KIDS..?

WHILE I WAS BUSY DODGING ***"CLANKY"*** BEFORE, I NOTICED THE SLIGHTEST ***"BLIND SPOT"*** IN HIS ARMOR'S RANGE-OF-MOTION!

SO IF I CAN GET ***ABOVE*** HIM -- USE THAT TO MY ***ADVANT*** --

--BINGO!

EAT GYM FLOOR, GAUNT! -- OR WHOEVER YOU ARE!

TING

TING

KTANG

-- PATIENT IS IN *SEVERE* AND *COMPLICATED* LABOR...

The Daily Grind

RESCUE SQUAD

WHAT'S YOUR *NAME*, MA'AM?

Urgh!

MMMMARY JANE Hmuh PARKER..!

OKAY, MARY JANE -- WE'RE GOING TO --

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY BABE EEEAHH!

THESE READINGS ARE ALL *OVER* THE PLACE -- SOMETHING'S *REALLY* WRONG! WE GOTTA GET HER TO THE *HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY!*

"I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE THIS*, BUT IT LOOKS *BAD* --

"-- REALLY BAD!"

ALRIGHT, **SNACKY** -- NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR **ATTENTION**, LET'S SEE --

-- *Huh?!* THAT *FACE*...

... I *KNOW THAT FACE!?*

YES, REILLY -- MENDEL STROMM! AND IF YOUR MEMORY SERVES YOU SO WELL THAT YOU REMEMBER THAT NAME... *

... YOU MIGHT ALSO REALIZE THAT YOUR ASSUMED VICTORY MIGHT BEST BE RECONSIDERED --

* FROM WAAY BACK IN **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #36 – Robo Ralf.

TAK

-- FOR NO ONE DEFEATS --

MENDEL STROMM... SO LONG AGO... USED TO WORK FOR... USED TO CALL HIMSELF...

-- THE ROBOT-MASTER!

NOT KIDS...

SHOOP

... ROBOTS!

KRUNCH

THEN HERE!

THOSE "KIDS" WERE SUPPOSED TO KEEP ME *OUT* OF THE *WAY* -- BUT IF THEY WERE MEANT TO BE *DIVERSIONS*...

"...WHAT EXACTLY IS IT THEY WERE DIVERTING ME FROM?!"

MY SERVITUDE ENDS WITH YOUR DEATH, REILLY -- AND I WILL NOT BE INDENTURED TO THAT MADMAN ONE SECOND MORE!

YOU WILL DIE!!

CAN YOU SAY... "CAVALRY"...?

LET'S *BLOW* THIS THING, KID, AND *GO HOME!*

NICE *TIMING.*

THANKS.

HOPE YOU LEARNED HOW TO "*DO THE MACARENA*"... 'CAUSE THIS GUY'S READY TO *DANCE!*

EVEN WITH THE ADDITION OF PARKER, REILLY — YOU ARE BOTH STILL SORELY OUTNUMBERED!

I'D SUGGEST IF YOU HAVE ANY PREPARED SPEECHES OR LAST WORDS —

-- YOU SAY THEM NOW!

DEE DEE DEE

WHA --?

HUH?

I-IT'S... IT'S...

... MARY JANE, THE BABY... THEY'RE...

... THEY'RE IN *TROUBLE!!*

continued in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #418 REVELATIONS: PART 3!

IN *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #418* AND *SPIDER-MAN #75*, "REVELATIONS" PARTS 3-4, TRAGEDY STRUCK. BEN AND PETER DEFEATED GAUNT, BUT ALISON'S POISON CAUSED MARY JANE TO MISCARRY. ALISON AND GAUNT'S MASTER REVEALED HIMSELF AS NORMAN OSBORN, THE LONG-THOUGHT-DEAD GREEN GOBLIN. WITH THE BUGLE STAFF AS HOSTAGES, NORMAN BATTLED BEN AND PETER. BEN ULTIMATELY SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE PETER'S — AND DISSOLVED INTO DUST, REVEALING THAT HE HAD BEEN THE CLONE ALL ALONG. TO HONOR BEN AND HIS LOST CHILD, A GRIEVING PETER BECAME SPIDER-MAN ONCE AGAIN.

MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

JAN '97 12

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

The SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

THE FINAL TRAP!

AAAHHH!

KRAK

NOT SO *TOUGH* NOW, *ARE YA?!*

THWAM

HUNGH --!

COUPLE OF *LEGBREAKERS* LIKE *YOU* DIDN'T THINK *TWICE* ABOUT SLAPPING ME AROUND 'CAUSE I OWED YA BUCKS.

I WAS JUST ANOTHER LOSER WHO WAS DOWN ON HIS LUCK... RIGHT?

L-L-*LISTEN*, PETE...WE --

SEEMS TO ME THE TABLES HAVE *TURNED..!*

... THAT'S WHERE *YOU* GET *EXCESSIVELY ABUSED*...

... AND *I* GET TO FEEL *GOOD* ABOUT IT!

WAKT

UNGHF --!

JERK! YOU ARE SO **DEAD** RIGHT NOW.

THWURP

--WHA--!

-- KKK -- KKTK --

YOU'RE JUST NOT *GETTIN' THIS,* ARE YA..?

PAKT

I KNEW *MARKO* WAS WATCHING, AND AT THE TIME, I COULDN'T LET HIM SEE ME AS ANYTHING BUT DEFENSELESS, PITIFUL *PETER PETURSKI.*

WHEN YOU AND YOUR PAL *WORKED ME OVER* -- PUTTIN' THE *MUSCLE* ON ME FOR YOUR *LOW-LIFE LOAN SHARK BOSS,* I COULDN'T FIGHT BACK.

BUT THAT'S *HISTORY*... IT'S TIME FOR *YOU,* AND ALL NEW YORK, TO KNOW --

HE'S REFERRING TO FLINT MARKO, AKA THE **SANDMAN** AND THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED IN **SILVER SABLE #26** -- *Reference Ralf.*

-- THE *TRAPSTER* IS BACK!

READY TO *RIGHT* MY *REP* AS ONE OF THE *HEAVYWEIGHTS!* A *CRIMINAL GENIUS...!*

... I'M GONNA *HAVE IT ALL*...AND *WOE* TO ANYONE THAT GETS IN *MY WAY...!*

AND *YOU,* BOYS, WILL BE MY *'CALLIN' CARD'.* WHEN THEY SEE YOU, THERE'LL BE LITTLE *DOUBT* THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF --

...SPIDER-MAN...?

Oh, IT WAS SPIDER-MAN *EASY*... ... HAVE THE KID SNAP A PICTURE, *URICH* -- I'LL *GIVE* YA YER *HEADLINE*...

...*"SPIDEY BUSTS HEADS"!*

A BIT MORE *BRUTAL* THAN USUAL, NOT THAT THESE *SKELS* DIDN'T *DESERVE IT...!*

... IT *HADDA* BE SPIDER-MAN!

NO IT *DIDN'T*...

STAN LEE Presents:

A MATTER OF RESPECT

TODD DEZAGO Words
JOSH HOOD Guest Pencils
JOHN LOWE Inks
RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT Letters
GREGORY WRIGHT Colors
GCW Enhancement
RALPH MACCHIO Editor
BOB HARRAS Chief

THE YOUNG MAN WITH THE CAMERA IS *PETER PARKER*, FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE*.

HE KNOWS SPIDER-MAN ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BECAUSE... WELL... HE *IS* SPIDER-MAN.

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NOT THAT THAT ALWAYS HELPS...

DAILY BUGLE

ALL I'M SAYING, *JONAH*, IS THAT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE VERY *RESPONSIBLE*...

THE OFFICE OF EDITOR, PUBLISHER, AND CIGAR AFICIONADO, J.JONAH JAMESON...

I'VE BEEN TAKING PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN -- *AND HIS WEBBING* -- FOR *YEARS* NOW!

I'VE SEEN THAT STUFF A *THOUSAND TIMES* AND THIS 'GUNK' JUST *AIN'T IT!*

IF YOU RUN THAT HEADLINE WITH THOSE PHOTOS I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A *BIG MISTAKE.*

PARKER, FOR ALL *WE* KNOW HE CHANGED THE *SECRET FORMULA* ON THAT... *GOOP!*

WHO *KNOWS? WHO CARES?!*

SPIDER-MAN IS A *MENACE!* THE *COPS* KNOW IT, AND *I* KNOW IT.

AND HERE WE'VE FINALLY GOT A STORY THAT WILL *EXPOSE* THAT WALL-CRAWLING *FREAK* FOR *WHAT HE IS!*

THESE JERKS WERE ***BRUTALLY BEATEN*** AND ***TERRORIZED!*** SPIDEY'S NEVER ***TORTURED*** ANYONE ***BEFORE*** --

GRRR

Oh, ***DON'T TRY*** TO ***TELL ME*** THAT --

I RUN THIS PAPER AND I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT!

WHAT I'M NOT GONNA DO IS STAND HERE AND ARGUE WHAT I'M GOING TO RUN AS MY HEADLINE WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHER!

THWUNK

NOW GET OUT!

SORRY, PETE -- I TRIED TO WARN YOU, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO JONAH AND ***SPIDER-MAN***...

YEAH, BEN, I KNOW...

... HE DOESN'T WANT THE ***TRUTH,*** HE JUST WANTS THE ***NEWS!***

THWUNK

DAILY

SPIDER-MAN...?!

WHERE DOES HE GET OFF...?!

I PLAN TO STAGE THE MOST SENSATIONAL CAREER *COMEBACK* SINCE *JOHN TRAVOLTA* --

-- AND *BEGIN* BY *PUMPING* THOSE *PUNKS* FULL OF *PASTE* --

-- AND SPIDER-MAN GETS ALL MY PRESS...?!

I THINK *NOT!*

I DESERVE ***RESPECT!*** I HAVEN'T BEEN ***PASTE POT PETE*** FOR YEARS!

I'M THE ***TRAPSTER!*** I WAS A MEMBER OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR! I'VE GONE HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE ***FANTASTIC FOUR, DAREDEVIL, CAPTAIN AMERICA...***

... AND I AM NOT GONNA ALLOW THAT BLASTED ARACHNID TO STEAL MY SMOKE!

BUT THIS ***DOES*** CALL FOR A MINOR ***ALTERATION*** IN PLANS...

... I'VE GOTTA DEVISE A TRAP SO ***DEVIOUS*** IT'LL ***RE-ESTABLISH*** MY ***REPUTATION*** AS A ***CRIMINAL MASTERMIND...***

... YET, NOT SO ***INTRICATE*** THAT THE ***MINDNUMBINGLY IGNORANT PUBLIC*** COULD POSSIBLY ***MISS IT!***

SOMETHING ***'STICKY'*** ENOUGH --

-- TO TRAP A ***SPIDER..!***

A *TRAP* IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF *POSITION*...

... I'VE SPENT A *LIFETIME* STUDYING THE SUBTLETIES OF *CAPTURE*... THE *FEINTS* AND *THRUSTS* OF PREDATOR AND PREY!

I'M A *MASTER* OF MOVING A VICTIM INTO A *FATAL* POSITION SO HE DON'T EVEN *KNOW* WHAT'S HAPPENING! AND I *LOVE* IT!

IT'S JUST *SETTING* THEM *UP* --

-- AND *KNOCKING* THEM *DOWN!*

CLICK

I'LL HAVE MY *REVENGE* ON THOSE WHO *CROSSED ME* IN THE PAST. AND EVERYONE IN THE CITY... IN THE *WORLD*, IS GONNA KNOW THE NAME *TRAPSTER* --

-- AS THE MAN WHO *TOOK DOWN SPIDER-MAN!*

"BUT FIRST, I'LL NEED TO ***BAIT*** THE TRAP!"

I COULDN'T TELL JONAH THIS MORNING, BUT I RECOGNIZED THAT ***GLUE*** THOSE THUGS WERE BOUND UP IN THE MOMENT I SAW IT!

PROBLEM ***IS***, I'VE BEEN ***CRISS-CROSSING*** THE CITY FOR ***HOURS*** NOW, BUT THERE'S BEEN NO ***SIGN*** OF HIM!

AND TRAPPY'S NO ***WALLFLOWER***... WHEN HE'S AROUND, HE MAKES SURE EVERYBODY --

WHOA!

THE ***TRAPSTER'S*** BACK IN ***ACTION!***... AND I'VE GOT TO ***STOP HIM*** BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO GET ***STARTED!***

AND BEFORE HE CAN GET SPIDER-MAN INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE../

BINGO!

THAT GUY THEY'RE PULLING OUT OF THAT BUILDING --

-- ***ENCASED*** IN ***PASTE*** FROM TRAPSTER'S ***GLUE-GUN!*** PROBABLY SOMEBODY THAT ***DISSED*** TRAPSTER IN THE ***PAST!***

SIR, CAN YOU TELL US, WHAT ***THIS IS -- WHAT HAPPENED?!***

TRAP-TH-TER!

Oh, I'M ON THE *RIGHT TRACK,* ALL RIGHT!

AND I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF THE GAME *THAT* LONG THAT I CAN'T FOLLOW *TRAPPY'S* TRAIL!

WELL, *LOOKAHERE* --

SOME KID WHO WAS *UNFORTUNATE* ENOUGH TO *GET* IN HIS *WAY!*

OR MAYBE HE MADE SOME *CRACK* ABOUT HIS *COSTUME*...

HEY! *HEY!* IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!*

YO!/HEY, SPIDER-MAN! -- YOU GOTTA *HELP US,* HOMES!

"COUPLE OF COPS, *STUCK* TO THE *DOOR* OF A *JEWELRY STORE BREAK-IN*...

WHAT WERE *YOU GUYS* DOING? PLAYING YOUR *CAR STEREO* TOO *LOUD*?...

Y'KNOW I KINDA HATE THAT *MYSELF*...

WHICH WAY'D HE *GO?*

UPTOWN. TOWARDS *FIFTH.*

YER GONNA LET US GO, RIGHT?...

IT'S BEEN NICE RUNNING INTO YOU, **DOMINIC** -- LONG TIME, NO SEE, AND ALL THAT!

THWAP

AND I'M **CERTAIN** THAT YOUR BOSS, **GAVIN THORPE**, ISN'T GOING TO **MIND** IF I **RELIEVE** YOU OF THE EVENING'S **'DEPOSITS'**.

CHK-K-K

SO HAND OVER THE **BRIEFCASE**, DOM -- OR THEY'RE GONNA BE CLEARING OUT YOUR **SINUSES** WITH AN **ICEPICK!**

Hey! DON'T PUT THAT **GLUE-GUN** IN HIS **NOSE**...

Eh?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S **BEEN!**

GOT MY **INVITATION**, Huh?

YOU ONLY LEFT THEM *ALL OVER TOWN.*

I WASN'T SURE YOU'D *COME.* BELIEVE THAT, WEBS?

LET GO OF THE *'INNOCENT BYSTANDER',* TRAPPY.

YOU *WANT HIM, TAKE HIM!*

UNGH!

ME?... I'M GONNA TAKE A *CAB!*

IGOT HIMIGOT HIMIGOT HIM --

THURP

WAKT

-- IMISSED HIMIMISSEDHIM IMISSEDHIM!

I'M *RUSTY* AT THIS...FORGOT ALL ABOUT TRAPSTER'S *CHEMICAL LUBRICANT --*

-- THAT LET'S HIM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF *ANY SITUATION!*

SPSSSHH

I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET ***COCKY*** LIKE THAT!

I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK IN THE COSTUME FOR ***ALL THAT LONG*** -- I STILL NEED TO SHAKE OUT SOME OF THE ***COBWEBS***... ER...

...SO TO SPEAK...

HE IS THE ***TRAPSTER,*** AFTER ALL!

AND WITH ALL HIS TALK OF ***INVITATIONS,*** IT'S OBVIOUS THAT TRAPPY'S ***LEADING*** ME INTO ***SOMETHING...***

HOPEFULLY, I'M NOT SO ***OUT OF PRACTICE*** THAT I CAN'T STAY ***ONE STEP AHEAD*** OF HIM...!

WITH MY ***SPIDER-SENSE*** ACTING AS A BUILT-IN ***EARLY WARNING SYSTEM,*** I CAN ***ANTICIPA--***

-- JINKIES! --

-- SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

TIME FOR A FEW SPIDERY ***LEAPS*** AND ***BOUNDS!***

ALL THE WHILE KEEPING MY EYES OPEN HOPING THAT ***TRAPPY*** ISN'T ***HERDING*** ME INTO --

Uh Huh... APPARENTLY THE IDEA WAS THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO ***BLINDLY HURL*** MYSELF INTO THOSE ***GOOEY GIRDERS..!***

SORRY I CAN'T OBLIGE, TRAPSTER...

...BUT WITH A LITTLE SPIDER-LIKE *GRACE* --

-- AND *AGILITY* -- I CAN -

-- Huh?!?

THE LUBRICANT!

EVERYTHING'S *SLICK* --

-- NO PLACE TO *GRAB* OR GET ANY *PURCHASE!* I...I'M...

SPLORSSCH

WELL, SPIDER-MAN -- I'VE GOTTA SAY -- THAT TURNED OUT TO BE ***QUITE A RUN,*** DIDN'T IT?

ALTHOUGH ***YOU*** MIGHT NOT THINK SO SINCE YOU TURNED OUT TO BE THE ***LOSER!***

Y'SEE -- ***THIS*** IS WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO TRY TO ***STEAL*** MY ***SPOTLIGHT!***

Oh, I KNOW IT WASN'T ***YOUR*** FAULT -- NOTHING YOU DID ***INTENTIONALLY...***

BUT THE PAPERS GIVING ***YOU*** THE CREDIT FOR MY HANDIWORK, GAVE ***ME*** JUST THE ***INSPIRATION*** I ***NEEDED!***

I FIGURED IF ***YOU'RE*** SUCH AN ***E-TICKET ATTRACTION*** IN THIS TOWN, THAN THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO RIGHT MY ***REPUTATION*** --

-- WOULD BE FOR ME TO JUST ***KILL YOU!***

THIS ***GENERATOR*** THAT'S PERCHED SO ***PRECARIOUSLY*** NEXT TO ME WEIGHS SEVERAL TONS...

...IT'S BEING ***BALANCED*** BY A SINGLE CORD OF GLUE... AND Y'KNOW ***WHAT..?***

I'VE GOT SOME ***SOLVENT*** DRIPPING ON THAT GLUE EVEN AS WE SPEAK!

IT'S GONNA *SQUASH* YOU LIKE A...

I'D STAY AND *TALK*...

...BUT I'VE A FEELING THINGS ARE GONNA GET *REAL MESSY, REAL SOON!*

HASTA LA PASTA, INSECT!

...*WELL*...

...LIKE A *BUG!*

WOTTA REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT THIS IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M *ANGRIER* ABOUT... THAT I'M GONNA GET *FLATTENED* JUST SO TRAPPY CAN PUT ANOTHER *NOTCH* IN HIS *BELT* --

-- OR THAT I *SWUNG* RIGHT INTO HIS TRAP LIKE SOME *RANK AMATEUR*...!

THIS GLUE IS BEGINNING TO *SET* ALL *AROUND ME!* AND I HAVE ABSOLUTELY *NO* LEVERAGE TO PULL MYSELF *OUT* OF THIS *THING!*

ONLY *ONE CHANCE*... IF I CAN *THWIP* OFF A *WEB-LINE*...

...AND *IF* I CAN GET IT TO *ARC UP* AND *OVER* THAT *GIRDER*... STICK IT TO THE GENERATOR *ITSELF*...

THWAP

MAYBE WHEN IT FALLS, THE WEIGHT OF THE GENERATOR --

KROOM

-- WILL *TUG ME RIGHT OUT OF THAT GOOP!*

WHOA WHOA WHOA! THAT WAS A LITTLE *TOO CLOSE* FOR *COMFORT!*

MAN, I HAVE NEVER FELT SO ***SPANKED*** IN ALL MY LIFE! WHIPPED BY A GUY WHO USED TO CALL HIMSELF ***PASTE POT PETE!*** *YEESH!*

I GOTTA ***SHARPEN UP*** -- GET BACK ***ON MY GAME*** --

-- OR MAYBE NEXT TIME I WON'T BE ABLE TO ***AVOID*** THE GENERATOR!

I OUGHT TO GO OUT AFTER THE TRAPSTER, TRACK HIM ***DOWN***... BUT AFTER ***TONIGHT***, MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I JUST ***GO HOME*** AND ***LICK MY WOUNDS***...

...FIND A BOOK ON *"HOW TO BE A BETTER* ***SPIDER-MAN****"!* THEN I'LL CHASE HIM DOWN LATER.

AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AT THE PARKER HOME.

ALL I CAN THINK OF IS GETTING INTO A ***NICE WARM*** --

-- *Oh,* ***NO!***

MARY JANE AND AUNT ANNA ARE SITTING UP ***TALKING!***

IT'S BEEN ***SO LONG*** SINCE I'VE HAD TO WORRY ABOUT ***SNEAKING INTO THE HOUSE***... I DON'T HAVE A ***KEY***... *I* DON'T HAVE ***CLOTHES*** TO CHANGE INTO...

SIGH

MAN, COULD THINGS ***GET*** ANY WORSE..?

THE NEXT MORNING AT THE OFFICES OF THE **DAILY BUGILE.**

...AND THESE PICS **SHOW** SPIDER-MAN FIGHTING THE TRAPSTER!

HE'S THE GUY BEHIND THOSE BEATINGS THE OTHER NIGHT! NOT **SPIDER-MAN!**

BAH! FOR ALL WE KNOW, THEY WERE IN **CAHOOTS** WITH ONE ANOTHER! THEN THEY GOT **MAD COW DISEASE** AND STARTED **POUNDING** ON EACH OTHER!

ALL THOSE COSTUMED FREAKS ARE **NUTJOBS** ANYWAY! THAT'S NOT **NEWS** TO ANYONE.

WELL, MAYBE THE PUBLIC DOESN'T ALWAYS **WANT** THE NEWS... MAYBE THEY'D LIKE THE **TRUTH.**

LISTEN TO ME, KID -- I'VE GOT **YEARS** OF **JOURNALISTIC EXPERIENCE** UNDER MY BELT! YEARS OF RUNNING A **MAJOR METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER!**

YEARS OF KNOWING WHAT THE PUBLIC **WANTS** -- THEY WANT **NEWS! HARD-HITTING, CUTTING EDGE, BARE ESSENTIAL NEWS!**

THEY WANT THE **WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE,** AND **HOW!** THEY DON'T WANT THE **MAYBE!**

THAT WEB-HEADED VIGILANTE IS A **THREAT TO SOCIETY! A CANCER ON OUR SYSTEM!**

AND I'M NOT GOING TO PUBLISH EVEN THE **SMALLEST** STORY THAT MIGHT GIVE THAT **COSTUMED CRETIN** EVEN THE **SLIGHTEST** HANDHOLD ON **DECENCY!**

YOU SHOULD **WAKE UP,** PARKER -- AND STOP BEING **MANIPULATED** BY ALL THOSE **SPIDEY SYMPATHIZERS** OUT THERE.

STOP BEING SO ***IDEALISTIC***, PARKER -- YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS THAT PAY THE ***BIG MONEY!***

I MEAN HAVE YOU EVER REALLY CONSIDERED THE EFFECTS OF ***GLOBAL WARMING?!***

GLOBAL...

--WHAT?!

JUST CAME IN. U.N. PRESS RELEASE. THE ***OZONE*** ABOVE THE ***ANTARCTIC ICECAPS*** IS FULL OF ***HOLES.*** IT'S ***MELTING*** THE ***GLACIERS.***

AND IT'S ALL DRAINING INTO -- ***THE SAVAGE LAND!***

THE U.N.'S DECLARED IT A ***DISASTER AREA,*** AND I NEED SOMEONE TO GO PHOTOGRAPH IT...

...***SOMEONE*** WHO'S BEEN THERE ***BEFORE!***

PR SI

ENVIRONM
DISASTER!
SAVAGE LA
FLOODED!

BE HERE IN THIRTY AS
SPIDEY TEAMS UP WITH
KA-ZAR AND SHANNA
(AS WELL AS SOME OTHER UNEXPECTED GUEST STARS...) TO SAVE
"A SAVAGE LAND!"

MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

FEB '97 13

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STAMPEDE IN THE SAVAGE LAND!

PROLOGUE

IT BEGINS WITH A DRIP --

-- A TINY TRICKLE THAT EVOLVES INTO A CHORTLING RIVULET --

-- SEEPING DOWN INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN STRATA FAR BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC TUNDRA ABOVE --

-- RUNNING INTO LIGHTLESS CAVERNS NEVER SEEN BY MAN --

-- DISTURBING THE MILLENNIA-LONG SLEEP OF ONE --

-- THAT SHOULD NEVER BE AWAKENED!

KRAW!

KRAW!

END PROLOGUE

THE OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE --

...THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE, PARKER...

... YOU NEED AN ASSIGNMENT. I NEED SOMEONE TO GO TO THE SAVAGE LAND. YOU'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE. SO...

... I NOMINATE YOU!

... THE SAVAGE...

-- WHERE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER, PETER PARKER IS BEING MANIPULATED INTO HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT...

Oh NO... JONAH! NO WAY! I AM NOT GONNA LET YOU TALK ME INTO --

-- I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET HIM TALK ME INTO THIS.

OF COURSE, MARY JANE DID AGREE THAT THE MONEY FROM THIS GIG WILL HELP PAY FOR US BOTH TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL... SO THAT'S A PLUS...

... THE ONLY PLUS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I CAN HAVE YOUR ATTENTION...

... I'M SPECIAL AGENT CHRIS TOWNSEND OF SHIELD. I'M HEADING UP WHAT IS ACTUALLY A U.N. VENTURE HERE AT THE SOUTH POLE...

... IT'S ALSO MY JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU PRESS PEOPLE GET IN, SEE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SEE, AND THEN GET BACK OUT... SAFELY!

THIS IS NOT A FIELD TRIP. YOU ARE FREE TO GO WHEREVER AND SEE WHATEVER YOU LIKE... BUT BE ADVISED...

STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE AND LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE -- r.a.l.f.

... DESPITE ITS APPEARANCE AS A ***TROPICAL PARADISE,*** THE SAVAGE LAND CAN ***FAST*** BECOME A ***DANGEROUS, DEADLY*** PLACE!

SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO ***JOURNEY*** OUT INTO THE ***JUNGLE*** ITSELF, PLEASE DO SO IN THE COMPANY OF ONE OF OUR ***SHIELD ADVISORS.***

AS YOU'VE ALL READ IN THE U.N.'S ***PRESS RELEASE,*** THE ENVIRONMENTAL ***DAMAGE*** IS...

YEAH, I'VE ***READ*** THE REPORTS... AND IT'S ALMOST TOO ***INCREDIBLE TO BELIEVE!***

THAT THE DAMAGE WE'VE DONE TO THE ***OZONE LAYER*** IS FINALLY ***TAKING ITS TOLL*** -- THAT THE HOLE IN THE OZONE ABOVE THE ***ANTARCTIC*** --

-- IS ***MELTING*** THE ***GLACIERS*** AT AN ***ALARMING RATE!*** AND THE PLACE THAT STANDS TO CATCH THE ***WORST*** OF IT IS THE ***SAVAGE LAND*** --

-- WHICH IS LITERALLY ONE HUGE ***VALLEY BASIN,*** LOCATED JUST BELOW THE ***ETERNITY MOUNTAIN RANGE.*** WHEN THOSE ***ICE CAPS MELT...***

... THE WATER WILL START ***POURING*** INTO THERE LIKE THERE'S NO ***MAÑANA!*** AND THERE ***WON'T BE..!***

... ALL THE ***NATIVES,*** ALL THE ***ANIMALS*** -- ***EVERYTHING*** IN THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE ***INUNDATED*** AS ***OCEANS*** OF WATER COME ***CRASHING IN!***

IT'LL BE THE WORST ***ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE*** EVER...

... UNLESS THE ***U.N.*** AND ***SHIELD*** CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

STAN LEE Presents: A SPIDER IN A SPIDER LAND -- DELUGE PART ONE

A SAVAGE LAND

TODD DEZAGO Words
MIKE WIERINGO Pencils
RICHARD CASE Inks
RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT Letters
GREGORY WRIGHT Colors
GCW Separations
RALPH MACCHIO Editor
BOB HARRAS Chief

LADIES, GENTLEMEN -- WELCOME TO THE SAVAGE LAND!

WOW! I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE A HANDFUL OF TIMES, BUT EVERY TIME I SEE IT, IT'S...

...IT'S JUST SO...

-- WOW!

Oh!

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FOLKS -- IF YOU COULD ***STEP THIS WAY...***

... PROJECT ***COMMAND CENTER***. HERE WE ***COLLECT*** AND ***COLLATE*** THE ***DATA*** RELAYED IN FROM ***SUB-STATIONS*** THROUGH-OUT THE SAVAGE LAND...

... FOR THE MOST PART, THIS VENTURE IS A ***JOINT EFFORT*** BY THE U.N., ***SHIELD***...

... AND THE ***ROXXON CORPORATION!***

MUCH OF THIS ***RESEARCH EQUIPMENT***, AND THE ***TECHNICIANS*** WHO MONITOR IT, WERE ***PROVIDED*** BY ROXXON...

... ROXXON ***EMPLOYEES***, THE ***MILES-LONG REFRIGERATION UNITS*** YOU SAW PLACED ALONG THE ***GLACIERS*** COMING IN -- ALL ***DONATED*** BY ***ROXXON!***

WHO SAYS ***BIG BUSINESS*** DOESN'T ***CARE..?***

... OBVIOUSLY, WHEN IT COMES TO ***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, EVERYONE*** NEEDS TO BE ***CONCERNED!***

--Dr. GERALD ROTH.

AND THIS IS THE GUY WHOSE ***NUMBERS*** AND ***KNOW-HOW*** ARE GOING TO ***SAVE*** THE SAVAGE LAND --

WE HOPE!

HI, EVERYONE -- LET ME START BY ***THANKING YOU ALL*** FOR MAKING THE ***LONG TREK SOUTH*** --

-- I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW ***IMPORTANT*** YOUR ***COVERAGE*** OF WHAT WE'RE ***DOING*** DOWN HERE ***IS.***

THE ***WORLD*** NEEDS TO KNOW OF THE ***HORROR*** WE'RE ***ALL*** FACING.

AND AS AN IMPROMPTU **PRESS CONFERENCE** STARTS UP --

-- A **CURIOUS** (AND **IMPATIENT**) PETER PARKER SURREPTITIOUSLY **SLIPS AWAY** --

-- EMERGING MOMENTS LATER FROM A CONVENIENT **EXHAUST DUCT** -- AS THE **SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!**

NOW **THIS** IS MORE **LIKE IT!**

SPROING

SPROING

SPROING

SPROING

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY **"PREPARED STATEMENTS"** OR **"OFFICIAL STORIES"**...

...IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM BEING A **PHOTOJOURNALIST**, IT'S THAT SOME-TIMES THE **BEST STORY** --

-- ALL DEPENDS ON **WHO YOU TALK TO..!**

...NOW IF I CAN JUST **FIND** HIM...

MEANWHILE, NEARBY; IN THE VILLAGE OF THE FALL PEOPLE --

-- WHERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY IS SYSTEMATIC PANIC, AS THE NATIVES RACE TO EVACUATE THEIR DOOMED COMMUNITY.

IN THE PANDEMONIUM, CHAOTIC EVENTS --

-- COLLIDE --

KRUNK

-- WITH ALL TOO DEADLY RESULTS..!

AAHH--

WHOOSH

--IEEE!

KRAK

SIMPLY PUT -- HE IS LORD OF THIS SAVAGE LAND!

HE WAS STRANDED HERE AS A YOUTH, AND LEFT TO SURVIVE ITS PERILS, UNTIL THE DAY HE CLAIMED THIS HIDDEN WORLD AS HIS DOMAIN!

NOW, THIS TIMELOST REALM TOTTERS ON THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON -- AND ITS MASTER REFUSES TO ABANDON IT!

<SHE'S ALL RIGHT, MELA --A LITTLE SHAKEN UP MAYBE...>

<OH, MY LITTLE TINTA! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!>

TRANSLATED FROM THE LANGUAGE OF THE FALL PEOPLE --<Ralf>

<TONGA -- WHEN YOU HAVE A MINUTE...>

<WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?>

<TOWNSEND SENT SOME MEN TO TELL US THAT THE DAM ON THE MOUNTAIN LAKE IS FAR BEYOND ITS CAPACITY..>

<.. WHEN IT BLOWS, THE WATER WILL CRASH THROUGH THE VALLEY AND TURN THE VILLAGE INTO TOOTHPICKS! -->

<I TOLD HIM TO TELL ME SOMETHING WE DIDN'T KNOW..>

<HE SAID WE'LL BE LUCKY IF IT DOESN'T BURST BY NIGHTFALL.>

<WE'LL HAVE TO PICK UP THE PACE WITHOUT PANICKING THEM ANY FURTHER.>

<AGREED. ALSO, I THINK WE JUST RECEIVED A LITTLE MORE HELP.>

YOU CAN COME DOWN NOW WE KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE...

Oh, YEAH? WELL...

... I KNEW YOU KNEW!

<YOU'RE A LONG WAY TO BE DELIVERING A PIZZA -- WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?!>

I HEARD YOU WERE HAVING SOME "DRAINAGE PROBLEMS" --

-- SO I THOUGHT I'D SWING BY TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT I COULD DO TO HELP..!

INTERLUDE

MONSTER ISLE -- LOCATED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE --

SKOOM

-- WHERE A HANDFUL OF ERRANT MONSTERS WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR ABSENT MASTER!

RRRR

SKOOM

RUMMMBLE

?

-- ERNT?!

WHERE THE MONOTONY IS BROKEN BY THE SOUND OF A DISTANT RUMBLE --

HUH?!

!

!

KRAW!

--A BUILDING TREMOR THAT FILLS THEM WITH DREAD, FOR IT HERALDS THE COMING OF THE ONE ... WHO WOULD BE ...

... THEIR DOOM!

END INTERLUDE

MEANWHILE --

... THE REFRIGERATION UNITS CONTINUE TO OPERATE AT PEAK EFFICIENCY...

... BUT EVEN WITH THAT, THEY CANNOT POSSIBLY KEEP UP WITH THE RATE AT WHICH THE GLACIERS ARE MELTING!

WE'RE FIGHTING AGAINST NATURE AND IT'S A LOSING BATTLE...

... BY Dr. ROTH'S CALCULATIONS, EVEN WITH THE FREEZER UNITS CONTINUING AT MAXIMUM OUTPUT --

-- THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE COMPLETELY UNDERWATER IN A MONTH'S TIME!

THAT'S IT, THEN...

... WE'RE FINISHED...

-- MEANWHILE -- MANY METERS ABOVE --

-- THE MELTING GLACIER YIELDS UP ITS OWN BAD NEWS --

-- AS THE FLOWING WATERS GRADUALLY REVEAL THE SLOWLY THAWING FORM OF THE ONE WHO IS CALLED --

-- STEGRON!

WELL, I GUESS EVERYONE IS WILLING TO STOP ***PANICKING*** LONG ENOUGH TO LOOK AT A GUY DRESSED LIKE A ***GREAT BIG SPIDER..!***

MAYBE NOW THAT WE HAVE THEIR ***ATTENTION...***

... WE CAN GET THEM TO AT LEAST PANIC IN A MORE ***ORDERLY FASHION.***

HOW COME ***SHIELD*** ISN'T ORGANIZING THE ***EVACUATION?***

THE ***FALL PEOPLE*** AREN'T THE MOST ***TRUSTING*** OF ***TRIBES...*** IN THE PAST, PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO EITHER ***ENSLAVE*** OR ***EXPLOIT*** THEM.

WHEN TOWNSEND AND HIS MEN SHOWED UP, I ACTED AS ***REPRESENTATIVE,*** OFFERING, FOR ***THEIR*** PEACE OF MIND, THAT ***WE*** ORCHESTRATE THE ***MOVE.***

WHICH WOULD BE ***GREAT,*** EXCEPT THEY KEEP MOVING UP THE ***DEADLINE*** ON US..!

THEY ORIGINALLY SAID THAT THE ***GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE*** WAS FILLING TO CAPACITY ***QUICKLY.***

THAT WHEN THE DAM ***BROKE,*** IT WOULD COMPLETELY ***SUBMERGE*** THIS LOWER PART OF THE VALLEY...

THEY GAVE US ***TWELVE DAYS...*** THAT WAS A WEEK AGO...TODAY THEY CHANGED IT TO ***HOURS..!***

RRRR

WHA --?

MAKE THAT ***HOUR,*** KA-ZAR --

TOWNSEND SAID HE'S ***SORRY,*** BUT THE ***TIMETABLE*** JUST GOT MOVED UP ***AGAIN...***

... YOU'VE GOT ***60 MINUTES*** TO GET YOUR PEOPLE TO ***HIGHER GROUND!***

AND SO IT BEGINS...

... AS KA-ZAR AND SPIDER-MAN MOUNT A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST BOTH TIME... AND NATURE!

LENDING STRENGTH, SPEED, AND KNOWLEDGE TO THE ALL-TOO-URGENT TASK AT HAND..!

KNOWING ALL THE WHILE, THAT THE ODDS ARE STACKED DANGEROUSLY AGAINST THEM!

AND --

BAAAANK!

<TUKUK! NOOO!>

THAT GOAT -- PANICKING -- SWINGING THE WHOLE LIFT OFF-BALANCE --!

BAAA --

<NOOO!>

JUST ONE CHANCE...

THWP

BAAH --?

THWAP

GOT IT! BUT NOW WITH THE LIFT AND THE GOAT, THE WHOLE THING'S AWKWARD! --

I'VE GOT THE STRENGTH, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE LEVERAGE --

-- OR THE TRACTION! MY FEET ARE SLIDING IN THIS DUSTY DIRT!

I'M LOSING IT! LOSING IT!...

...Huh?!

Y'KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SOLO FOR TOO LONG --

-- IT'S OKAY TO CALL FOR ***BACK-UP*** NOW AND THEN..!

SOON, IN A HUT OCCUPIED BY THE WIFE OF KA-ZAR...

HOW ***IS*** SHE..?

SHE'S STILL ***FEVERISH,*** BUT SHE'LL BE ***FINE*** --

-- I SEE YOU'VE FOUND A ***FRIEND*** -- HELLO, SPIDER-MAN --

HI, ***SHANNA!***

I SENT HER MOTHER ***AHEAD,*** TO GET A ***BED*** READY.

WHAT'S -- WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH HER..?

SHE HAS ***MALARIA.*** IT WOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR US TO ***CURE,*** BUT THE TRIBAL SHAMAN ***RESENTS*** MY ***MEDICAL TRAINING.***

HE HAS TURNED THE TRIBE ***AGAINST*** HER, CLAIMING THAT SHE SHOULD BE ***LEFT OUT*** TO SURVIVE ON HER OWN -- MAKING HER AN ***OUTCAST.***

SO WE'VE BEEN ***CARING*** FOR --

NO --

GRRR--!

THE DAM --

Oh, NO!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

GO! GO! GO! IT'LL BE HERE IN SECONDS!

EVERYBODY GO HIGH!

ZABU! UP!

SAOOM

KA-BOOM

KRASH

KA-ZAR! COME UP! COME UP!

I CAN MAKE IT! I CAN MAKE IT!

I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT! I'M NOT --

SHOOM

THWP

CHOOM

WHOA!

YANK

KRASH

KA-ZAR!

Y'KNOW --

THUMP

-- IT'S OKAY TO CALL FOR BACK-UP!

... RECENT DATA *INDICATES* THAT THERE HAS BEEN A *TREMENDOUS INCREASE* IN THE *RATE* OF *MELTING*, AND SADLY --

-- FOR ALL OUR *VAUNTED TECHNOLOGY*, THERE IS *NOTHING* WE CAN DO TO *HALT* THIS *DEVASTATING CATASTROPHE!*

I'M AFRAID, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT THE *SAVAGE LAND* IS *LOST!*

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS UP TO *NOW?*

NOW THAT WE'VE *INCREASED* THE *OUTPUT* ON THE ..."*REFRIGERATION*" *UNITS* --

-- THE ICECAPS ARE *DETERIORATING* AT ROUGHLY *TRIPLE* THE PREVIOUS RATE, SIR.

THERE WILL BE *OFFICIAL STATEMENTS* AND *PRESS KITS* ISSUED BY THE *U.N.* WITHIN THE *HOUR.*

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE *NOW* IS THE *EVACUATION* AND *RELOCATION* OF THE *INDIGENOUS PEOPLES* AND *WILDLIFE* IN THE VALLEY.

GOOD... GOOD...

... WITH THE OBJECTIVE SO CLOSE, THE ROXXON *BOARD MEMBERS* WILL BE *PLEASED* TO LEARN --

-- THAT THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE *ENTIRELY SUBMERGED IN NO TIME!*

IT'S *FUTILE* TO KEEP MOVING THEM TO HIGHER AND *HIGHER ELEVATIONS*, SINCE THERE SOON WON'T BE ANY *HIGHER GROUND TO GO TO!*

ALSO, WE'LL BE...

INTERLUDE;

MONSTER ISLE -- WHERE A LOW, MUFFLED CHORUS OF SCREAMS RESONATES FROM DEEP WITHIN THIS CRAGGY EDIFACE --

-- RISING TO A SUDDEN CACOPHONOUS DIN...

...AS A COLLECTION OF ITS WEIRD AND BIZARRE INHABITANTS SPEW FORTH FROM THE DARK AND TWISTED CAVERNS --

-- FLEEING THE LONG-DORMANT FURY OF THE CREATURE CALLED --

SKRA!

-- CHTYLOK --

-- THE CHE-K'N KAU!

KRAW!

NEXT ISSUE
SPIDEY! KA-ZAR!
SHANNA! SHIELD!
ROXXON! STEGRON!
THE CHTYLOK!
(AND A GUEST APPEARANCE BY A CERTAIN GAMMA-GRAY GOLIATH!)

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN®

MAR '97 | 14

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FEATURING

KAZAR™

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

GUEST STARRING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TARGET GREEN

PROLOGUE

THE FLORIDA KEYS...

...AN ARCHIPELAGO OF SMALL **ISLANDS** OFF THE FLORIDA COAST -- RENOWNED FOR THEIR **PLEASANT** AND **SPECTACULAR SUNSETS.**

THIS ISLAND, HOWEVER, IS NOW SIMPLY KNOWN AS -- **"THE HULK'S!"**

WEEKS AGO, HAVING GROWN **TIRED** OF THE **PARANOID POLITICS** OF THE **U.S. GOVERNMENT,** THE HULK COMMANDEERED THIS TINY ISLAND --

CRASH BOOM BANG

-- CLAIMING IT TO BE HIS **HIDEAWAY,** HIS **REFUGE...** HIS **SANCTUARY!**

AND WOE BE TO ANY WHO DARE TRESPASS ON HULK'S ISLAND!

SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK – Incredible Ralf.

THE MONSTERS STARTED SHOWING UP **HOURS** AGO -

THIS IS **FUTILE!**

I COULD **BASH** MONSTERS ALL DAY LONG, BUT THAT DOESN'T GET ME **ANY-WHERE!**

SOMEONE -- OR SOME**THING** -- IS DRIVING THESE MONSTERS **OFF** MONSTER ISLAND...

GRAB

YANK

SWING

WHUB

...AND I THINK IT'S TIME I **FOUND OUT WHO IT IS!**

AND JUST FOR ***WRECKIN'*** MY ***DAY***...

...I'M GONNA ***WHUP*** THIS JOKER ***TWICE!***

JUMP

HE HURLS *HIMSELF INTO THE SKIES -- PROPELLED BY THE* ***MIGHTIEST LEGS*** *ON THE* ***PLANET***...

...A ***GAMMA-SPAWNED JUGGERNAUT****, ONCE HE WAS THE FRAIL SCIENTIST, Dr. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER -- NOW HE IS SIMPLY THE* ***INCREDIBLE HULK!***

NOW LET'S SEE IF ***MOLE MAN'S HOME*** --*

* MOLE MAN -- THE DIMINUTIVE MASTER OF ALL MONSTERS AND RULER OF MONSTER ISLE. – Diminutive Ralf.

THOOM

NOPE. ***MOLEY*** DIDN'T DO ***THIS***...

NAH... WHATEVER TOOK OUT THESE BRUTES WAS SOMETHIN' BIG! SOMETHIN' --

-- Huh?!

KRAW!

-- SOMETHIN' THAT LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE WITH FEATHERS!

THE SAVAGE LAND.

A NATURAL WONDER.

A VAST TROPICAL BASIN CARVED INTO THE FROZEN ANTARCTIC GLACIERS -- A HIDDEN PARADISE.

BUT NOW THOSE GLACIERS ARE MELTING -- A RESULT OF THE HOLE MAN HAS GOUGED OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER.

AND DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF LARGE CORPORATIONS UTILIZING THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THE FIGHT TO HALT THE MELTING HAS BECOME A FUTILE ONE...

WOW.

...THEY CANNOT STOP THE WATER -- THEY CANNOT BATTLE NATURE.

THE SAVAGE LAND... IS DROWNING!

STAN LEE Presents:
KA-ZAR, SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL, ZABU -- Oh, AND THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN IN:

DELUGE
PART TWO

A TODD DEZAGO • MIKE WIERINGO • RICHARD CASE • RS/COMICRAFT/KS
GREGORY WRIGHT • GCW • RALPH MACCHIO - BOB HARRAS VENTURE!

HIGHER GROUND

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AND YET THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO **REFUSE** TO GIVE UP **HOPE.**

SPIDER-MAN HAS COME HERE TO **AID** HIS **FRIENDS** -- **KEVIN PLUNDER**, KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS **KA-ZAR**; STRANDED HERE AS A YOUTH AND NOW -- **LORD** OF THE **SAVAGE LAND**, AND HIS WIFE, **SHANNA** --

-- AS THEY **DESPERATELY ATTEMPT** TO FIND SOME WAY TO SAVE THEIR JUNGLE **HOME.**

IT'S LIKE THAT ***ALL OVER*** -- THE MELTING ***ICE'S POURING*** INTO THE SAVAGE LAND IN ***TORRENTS!***

THE LOWLANDS ARE ***FLOODED!*** WE'VE MOVED THE ***FALL PEOPLE*** TO HIGHER GROUND ***ONCE*** ALREADY --

-- BUT IF ***ROXXON, S.H.I.E.L.D.*** AND THE ***U.N.*** DON'T COME UP WITH A WAY TO STOP THIS ***SOON*** --

-- WE'RE GONNA RUN OUT OF ***UP*** TO GO TO..!

KA-ZAR!

<WHAT'S UP, TONGA?>

TRANSLATED FROM FALL-PEOPLE-ESE -- Um-Ralf-a.

<MATHALA HAS A TALE -->

<-- I THINK YOU SHOULD HEAR...>

<I WILL **SHARE** WITH YOU, KA-ZAR, THOUGH YOU ARE **NOT** OF **OUR TRIBE**. YOU HAVE **HELPED** US **MANY** TIMES AND YOU **RESPECT** OUR **WAY** -->

<-- YOUR **WOMAN** MAY STAY, IF YOU WISH -- AND THE MAN CLOAKED AS A **SPIDER**, ALSO -- BECAUSE HE WILL NOT **UNDERSTAND** US **ANYWAY**.

HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT ME, ISN'T HE?

<BAD DISGUISE. I WOULD NOT MISTAKE HIM FOR A SPIDER...>

<THE LEGEND BEGINS ***LONG AGO***, WHEN OUR PEOPLE WERE ***YOUNG*** AND STILL ***FOOLISH*** ENOUGH TO JOURNEY INTO THE ***ICELANDS*** ABOVE >

<...THERE, OUR ***ANCESTORS*** LEARNED THAT IT IS NOT OUR ***DESTINY*** TO VENTURE OUT BEYOND OUR ***JUNGLE VALLEY***, OR ***WE*** WOULD FACE THE ***WRATH*** OF OUR ***PROTECTOR*** -->

<-- THE LEGENDARY ***CHTYLOK!*** ALSO CALLED ***NAKRA***, ALSO CALLED THE ***CHE-K'N KAU*** -->

DID HE JUST SAY 'CHICKEN COW'...?

Shhh.

<IT IS ***BIGGER*** THAN THE ***BIG LIZARDS!*** IT CAN FLY LIKE A ***BIRD!*** IT CAN ***STAB*** YOU WITH ITS TAIL -->

<IT CAN ***RIP*** YOUR ***FACE OFF!***>

<IT SENT OUR ***WARRIORS*** BACK TO THE ***VILLAGE*** IN ***PIECES*** -- A ***WARNING*** FROM OUR ***GUARDIAN*** THAT WE ***STAY*** IN THE ***VALLEY!***>

<FOR EVER AFTER, WITH EACH NEW MOON, OUR PEOPLE HAVE LEFT AN ***OFFERING*** TO OUR PROTECTOR, ***CHTYLOK,*** FOR IT IS TOLD -->

<-- ONE DAY A TERRIBLE ***DISASTER*** WILL THREATEN TO ***WASH*** OVER OUR ***VALLEY.***>

<BUT ***THEN*** -->

<-- THE GREAT ***CHTYLOK*** WILL ***RISE*** FROM OUT OF THE ***EARTH*** TO ***SAVE US*** FROM THAT WHICH WOULD ***DESTROY US!***>

<SO YOU SEE, WHILE YOUR ACTIONS ARE **WORTHY**, YOU WORRY **NEEDLESSLY** -- OUR **SALVATION** LIES IN **LEGEND** -- THE **CHTYLOK** IS **COMING** -->

<-- THE **CHTYLOK** WILL **SAVE US!**>

<KA-ZAR! KA-ZAR -- YOU MUST COME! IT'S YADA!

<SHE IS STILL DOWN IN THE LOWLANDS -- SHE REFUSES TO LEAVE HER HOME..!>

SOON...

WHO'S YADA?

CRAZY WOMAN WHO LIVES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE -- ALONE -- WITH A BUNCH OF ANIMALS...

HER HUT IS DOWN BY THE RELAY STATION.

WHAT RELAY STATION..?

SHOW YOU LATER.

<KA-ZAR -- NO! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE! THIS IS MY HOME!

<THIS IS MY HOME!?>

ROAR!

<YADA -- THE WATER IS COMING AND YOU'RE LEAVING -->

<-- NOW MOVE!>

MOAK HOONAS! MOAK HOONAS!

?

WH- WHAT'S SHE *SAYING?*

SOMETHING ABOUT *HER BABY!*

RONK

MOAK HOONAS! NANA HOONAS...

YOUR *BABY?!*

WELL, BY *ALL MEANS,* MA'AM -- LET'S GET YOUR *BA-*

...uh...

<MY BABY...>

...SPIDEY!

HEY! YOU *OKAY?*

WE GOTTA *GET GOING.* THE *WATER* COULD BE HERE ANY *MINUTE..!*

UM... YEAH -- YEAH, LET'S GO...

INTERLUDE:

POW

SKRASH

OOF!

SKRAW!

C'MON -- YOU WANNA *PIECE* OF -

KLUB

UNGH!

KRRRR ?

WAP

OKAY, *BIRD* -- LET'S-

SLICE

AKK!

THUD

THAT *CUTS* IT --

WHAMO

KRRRRK

SHOOOP

THUD

HEY -- WHERE YA *GOIN'..?*

... I'M NOT *DONE* WITH YOU YET..!

MEANWHILE...

-- THERE IT *IS!*

IT'S ONE OF THE SEVERAL ***RELAY STATIONS*** THE OIL COMPANY, ***ROXXON,*** HAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE SAVAGE LAND --

-- FROM WHAT ***ROTH,*** THE GUY WHO'S ***HEADING*** UP THE PROJECT FOR ***ROXXON,*** TOLD ME --

-- THEY RELAY BOTH ***COMMUNICATIONS AND MICROWAVE ENERGY*** BACK TO THE ***COMMAND CENTER*** TO ***POWER*** THOSE MASSIVE ***REFRIGERATION UNITS*** AROUND THE ***GLACIERS.*** THEY ALSO MONITOR THE ***CLIMATE*** AND ***GEOLOGICAL STATUS*** OF THEIR LOCATIONS.

THEY'RE ***UGLY.***

WOW! LOOKS LIKE ROXXON PULLED OUT ***ALL THE STOPS*** TO --

-- ***HEY?!***

I'M NO ***BILL GATES,*** BUT IT'S ***EASY*** TO SEE THAT THINGS AREN'T ***COOL!*** -- THOSE ROXXON ***SQUIDS*** AREN'T TRYING TO ***RE-FREEZE*** THE GLACIERS --

ROXXON RELAY STA. 5

TRANSMISSION MICROWAVE

ENERGY FROM STARWELL SATELITE

...21000 ...RCVD TRANSMISSIONS

TO HEATING CORE C, G, J ...RCVD

RATE OF MELT ...71/22 SCS/UNT

INCREASE MICROWAVE TRANS

...LOADING

-- THEY'RE ***MELTING THEM!***

WHAT?!

IT'S *TRUE..!* THE *REFRIGERATION UNITS* ARE ACTUALLY --

-- BUT, *WHY WOULD THEY...*

Uh... *GUYS* -- I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER TO *THAT ONE,* TOO.

THIS ISN'T JUST A *RELAY STATION* --

-- IT'S AN *OIL RIG!*

ROXXON'S *PRIMED* TO *DRILL* -- THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN *PLACE!*

OMIGOD!

WHA --

IT ALL *FITS TOGETHER... PETROLEUM* IS A *FOSSIL FUEL* -- COMES FROM *DEAD DINOSAURS* --

-- DINOSAURS HAVE BEEN *HERE* FOR A *LONG TIME,* SO THERE MUST BE *A LOT* OF *OIL* UNDER THE SAVAGE LAND...

BUT... BUT THE SAVAGE LAND IS ***PROTECTED*** BY ***U.N. CHARTER*** FROM ANY ***CORPORATE INTERESTS!***

IT'S ***ILLEGAL*** TO ***DRILL*** FOR ***OIL HERE*** --

IF THERE ***IS*** A ***SAVAGE LAND!*** --

-- BUT IF IT ***SUDDENLY*** BECOMES ***COVERED*** WITH ***WATER,*** IT'S ***OPEN SEASON!*** THE ***MANDATES*** BECOME ***VOID!***

THEY'RE ***DRowning*** THE ***SAVAGE LAND*** FOR THE ***BLASTED*** OIL! ***I WON'T LET THEM DO THAT!*** NOT TO THESE PEOPLE -- NOT TO ***MY...*** HOME.

NOT HERE.

MEANWHILE...

SSSSO LONG DID I *FIGHT* TO RETURN HERE, TO MY *HOME* -- TO THE *SSSAVAGE LAND* --

-- DESSSPERATE TO *FLEE* THE *SSSELF-DESSTRUCTIVE INSSSANITY* OF *MAN'SSS WORLD!* --

-- ONLY TO *SSSUCCUMB* TO THE *ELEMENTSSS* -- *FROZEN SOLID* IN A *GLACIER* MERE *YARDSSS* FROM MY *ULTIMATE GOAL!* *

AND NOW THAT I HAVE *AWAKENED* FROM MY *ICCCY HIBERNATION*, I FIND MY HOME *SSSWARMING* WITH -- *

* IN THE VERY COOL **THUNDERSTRIKE #20** – *Refrigerated Ralf.*

-- MAN!

MOVING EARTH -- TEARING UP THE *JUNGLE* WITH THEIR *MACHINESSS* -- MAKING THE *WATERSSS* OF THE *LAKESSS* AND *RIVERSSS* TO *RISSSE*...

...MAN HAS *DESSSTROYED* THE *OUTERWORLD* WITH HISSS *WAR* AND *POLLUTION* -- BUT I WILL NOT *ALLOW* HIM TO SSSPREAD HIS *CANCER* HERE --

--SSSO *SSSWEARSSS SSSTEGRON!*

* SSSEE LASSST ISSUE– *Ralf.*

MILES AWAY --

-- IN THE OBSERVATION TOWER OF THE ROXXON/S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND CENTER --

-- WHERE PROJECT SUPERVISOR, SPECIAL AGENT CHRIS TOWNSEND, BRIEFS HIS TOP MEN ON PLANS TO EVACUATE THE SAVAGE LAND...

Dr. ROTH, SIR --

...AND OF THE THREE, THE GREAT WESTERN LAKE LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA LET GO FIRST, SO...

-- THAT... "PROBLEM" DOWN AT RELAY STATION FIVE IS BEING DEALT WITH AS PER YOUR ORDERS.

THE STRIKE TEAM HAS BEEN DEPLOYED ALONG WITH THREE OF THE TAA UNITS.

GOOD. THAT'S VERY GOOD...

...I WANT HIM REMOVED FROM THIS EQUATION QUICKLY!

I REALIZE THAT I COULD JUST AS SIMPLY LET THAT SAVAGE DROWN, BUT HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING TENACIOUS..!

...I PREFER KNOWING THAT THE MEDDLING KA-ZAR IS DEAD AND OUT OF MY WAY!

IT MAY BE MESSIER, BUT I WON'T HAVE TO WASH MY HANDS...

INTERLUDE

TWISTING AND WINDING MILES BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE --

KRUNK

POW

WAM

-- A NETWORK OF TUNNELS AND CAVERNS CONNECT MONSTER ISLE --

BOOM

KRAK

THUD

-- TO A MULTITUDE OF VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON EACH AND EVERY CONTINENT ON THE GLOBE.

USED BY THE ABSENT MOLE MAN AND HIS MONSTERS FOR ACCESS INTO THE OUTER WORLD --

SLAM

BAM

KRUNKH

-- TODAY, THEY HAVE BECOME A BATTLEZONE!

KRRRRRR

KRRRRR

NNG!

SKRRKK

KOW

WUNK

NF!

BRAK

RRRRRRUMMBLE

TOOM

AND --

ROXXON'S GONNA *PAY FOR THIS* -- AND ALL OF *S.H.I.E.L.D* WON'T BE ABLE TO *HOLD ME BACK!*

KA-ZAR, WAIT --

I'M GONNA FIND THAT *ROTH* AND I'M GONNA *TEAR* HIM *A NEW* --

ALL RIGHT, BUT WOULDJA *WAITAMINNIT?!*

WHAT?! WHAT COULD BE --

THAT.

HALT!

YOU ARE IN *VIOLATION* OF *U.N. CHARTER* AND *GUILTY* OF *TRESPASSING* ON *ROXXON* --

TRESPASSING..?!

...TRESPASSING...?!

YOU COME IN HERE -- TO MY HOME -- TO ORCHESTRATE THE GREATEST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER OF ALL TIME --

-- AND YOU ACCUSE ME OF TRESPASSING?! DO YOU EVEN KNOW --

THIS IS UNIT 2 -- I'VE GOT HIM IN MY SIGHTS --

-- PERMISSION TO TERMINATE?

WHOA! WHOA! WHOA! --

--KA-ZAR!--

THAT'S AFFIRMATIVE, UNIT 2.

FLAK

FLAK

FLAK

--MOVE!

WHAT THE -- YOU MISSED! HOW COULD Y --

NOW YOU SSSHALL PAY --

CHUFAK

-- YOU SSSHALL ALL PAY -- WITH YOUR LIVESSS!

MAN MAY CHOOSSSE TO ABUSSSE AND DESTROY THE OUTER WORLD -- BUT THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN HERE!

HERE, THE TIME HASSS COME FOR MAN TO DIE --

-- AND FOR THE DINOSAURSSS TO RULE!

OBOY!

NEXT ISSUE:

WHEW! LIKE WE GOTTA TELL YOU..! THE WEB-FLUID REALLY HITS THE FAN WHEN THE DINOSAURS STOMP EVERYONE INTO DENTUCREME AND WE CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BOOK TO:

THE SENSATIONAL STEGRON!

[...IT COULD HAPPEN...]

MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

APR '97 15

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CONCLUDING SPIDEY'S ADVENTURE IN THE SAVAGE LAND

GUEST STARRING KA-ZAR & THE INCREDIBLE HULK

MOMENTS AGO, THEY WERE SURROUNDED --

-- HAVING JUST LEARNED THAT THE ROXXON OIL CORPORATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FLOODING OF THE TROPICAL PARADISE CALLED THE SAVAGE LAND...

...SPIDER-MAN --

-- ALONG WITH HIS ALLIES, KA-ZAR, LORD OF THE SAVAGE LAND -- AND HIS CHARMING WIFE, SHANNA, THE SHE-DEVIL --

-- SOON FOUND THEMSELVES AMBUSHED BY A CADRE OF HEAVILY-ARMED ROXXON SECURITY SOLDIERS WITH ORDERS TO SHOOT TO KILL!

AND, AS IF THAT WASN'T GONNA BE A WAY-COOL, ACTION-PACKED, HOCKEY-GAME OF A FIGHT --

STAN LEE
Prehistorically Presents:

INUNDATED!

DELUGE PART THREE

-- THEY ALSO DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE **ALL** SURROUNDED BY THE HUMAN-HATING **STEGRON** --

-- AND HIS **OWN** ARMY OF MIND-CONTROLLED **DINOSAURS!**

MANKIND HASSS ***DESSSTROYED*** THE ***OUTERWORLD*** --

-- BUT HE WILL ***NOT*** DO THE ***SSSAME*** TO ***MY HOME!***

FINALLY, I HAVE ***RETURNED*** TO THE ***SSSAVAGE LAND, EAGER*** TO FIND ***PEACCCE*** LIVING ***HERE*** WITH MY BRETHREN --

-- ONLY TO FIND IT ***INFESSSTED*** WITH ***MAN*** AND HISSS ***MACHINESSS! NO MORE --!***

TODAY MARKSSS THE ***DAWN*** OF A ***NEW ERA*** -- AN ***AGE*** BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ***RESSSURGENCE*** OF THE ***SSSSAURIAN*** --

-- AND THE COMING ***EXTINCTION*** OF ***MANKIND!***

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NOW MY BROTHERSSS -- KILL THE HUMANSSS!--

--KILL THEM ALL!

ONCE HE WAS HUMAN HIMSELF...

A GENETICIST, Dr. VINCENT STEGRON, PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES OF CELLULAR REGENERATION. WORKING WITH DINOSAUR TISSUE --

-- Dr. STEGRON INTRODUCED AN EXPERIMENTAL SERUM INTO HIS OWN SYSTEM, TRIGGERING NOT ONLY A TRANSFORMATION IN HIS PHYSIOLOGY --

-- BUT STIRRING UP DARK, ANCIENT REPTILIAN MEMORIES!

MEMORIES OF A TIME WHEN DINOSAURS STILL RULED -- BEFORE MAN WRONGFULLY ASSUMED THE ROLE OF DOMINANT SPECIES!

MEMORIES OF A TIME HE NOW FIGHTS TO RESTORE.

IT IS A BATTLE SYMBOLIC IN MANY WAYS --

-- MAN VERSUS BEAST --

CHOW CHOW

HRAK!

KRUNT

HRRRK

THWUD

-- TECHNOLOGY VERSUS NATURE --

SWAK

-- RIGHT VERSUS WRONG!

KA-ZAR -- THIS IS *STUPID!* WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS!

Uh-Oh.

WAK

CHOW

KICK

THE DAMS COULD BURST ANY SECOND NOW!

IF WE DON'T GET EVERYBODY OUTTA HERE LIKE -- TEN MINUTES AGO -- WE'RE ALL GONNA DROWN!

WAP

WE GOTTA STOP THIS FIGHT!

KRUNK

THUNK

KA-ZAR..?

WHUB

HOOF!

HEY, KAZAR !?!

YEAH, I HEAR YA!

I'M JUST NOT ANYWHERE NEAR DONE BEING MAD ABOUT ALL THIS YET!

GO SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOME WAY TO CONVINCE STEGRON --

-- WHILE SHANNA AND I TRY TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THESE ROXXON JERKS!

THIS IS *SENSELESS!* WE'LL BE *FLOODED* --

-- OOPS! ROXXON GUY GOT THE DROP ON ME...

RAARH

ZABU?!

AIEE!

THANKS, 'BU..!

STEGGY! -- WILL YA JUST STOP *SWINGING* AND *LISTEN* FOR A SECOND?!

WE'RE RUNNING *OUT OF TIME!* WE'VE GOT TO --

-- *STOP* THIS *FIGHTING!* DON'T YOU *GET IT?*

ROXXON *SOLD YOU SHORT!* YOU'RE ON A *SUICIDE MISSION!* WE'RE *ALL* --

-- *ALL* IN *JEOPARDY!* WHEN THOSE *DAMS* GIVE OUT, WE'LL *ALL* --

-- *ALL* BE *DEAD!*

I *WON'T* LET THAT *HAPPEN* --

YOU THINK *YOU'RE* THE *ONLY ONE* FIGHTING FOR YOUR *HOME..?!*

LOOK, STEGGY --

"-- AREN'T YOU TWO FIGHTING FOR THE SAME THING..?

SKRASH

I WON'T LET THEM **FLOOD** THIS **VALLEY!**

I WON'T LET THEM DRIVE EVERYTHING **OUT** OF THE **SAVAGE LAND** JUST SO THEY CAN HAVE THEIR **FILTHY OIL!**

I WON'T LET ROXXON THINK THEY CAN WIN!

HNGH

WE'RE NOT ***HELPLESS*** --

-- AND WE'RE NOT GONNA LET THEM ***TAKE*** OUR ***HOME.***

SKRAASH

YOU SSSPEAK THE ***TRUTH,*** SSSPIDER-MAN -- HISSS ***DEDICATION*** TO THE ***SSSALVATION*** OF THIS LAND MAKESSS HIM A ***WORTHY ALLY*** --

-- I WILL ***LEND*** MY FORCCCESSS TO YOUR ***FIGHT.***

R-R-R-R-R-R-I-N-G-L-E

WHAT --

I-IS IT THE FLOODS?!

NO...

THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR DAYS --

-- THE GAMMA-BORN GOLIATH, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, AND THE MAMMOTH MYTHICAL MONSTER KNOWN AS THE CHTYLOK...

...THRASHING EACH OTHER -- POUNDING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE VERY EARTH IN A CATACLYSMIC BOUT OF SHEER STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE!

THEY ERUPT FROM THE GROUND LIKE A GEYSER -- FROM TUNNELS FAR BENEATH THIS SAVAGE LAND --

-- A LABYRINTH OF CAVERNS AND PASSAGES BURROWING DEEP DOWN INTO THE PLANET'S CORE!

CHOOM

AS SEEN IN THE PREVIOUS TWO ISSUES! AND BY THE WAY, WHERE WERE YOU? YOU'RE NOT OUT THERE TRYING TO HAVE A LIFE OF YOUR OWN AGAIN, ARE YOU? -- Reprimanding Ralf.

THEY'VE FOUGHT LONG --

-- AND FAR --

SBLAM

KROOM

-- BUT IT'S OVER!

HEY, STEGGY -- YOU AND THE BOYS WANNA JOIN THE TEAM..? HERE'S A NEW GAME --

-- IT'S CALLED PILE ON!

GO!

RAAAR!

RRRRR!

ROARR!

WELL, ***THERE'S*** SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY...

GOOD TO SEE YA, ***HULKIE!***

I DUNNO WHAT YOU AND ***"FOGHORN"*** THERE WERE ***TUSSLING*** ABOUT --

-- BUT THAT'S QUITE A ***CRATER*** YOU GUYS MADE! AS A MATTER OF ***FACT*** --

-- HEY, ***KAZE*** -- ARE YOU THINKING WHAT ***I'M*** THINKING..?

LISTEN -- I'VE GOT AN IDEA, BUT IT'S GONNA TAKE EVERYBODY'S HELP...

...***EVERYBODY!***

RUB A LAMP, JERK.

A SHORT TIME LATER --

-- AT THE U.N./S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND STATION, SITUATED ON THE UPPER RIM OF THE SOON-TO-BE SUBMERGED SAVAGE LAND --

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THE RELAY STATIONS HAVE GONE OFF-LINE"..?

-- DOCTOR GERALD ROTH, HEAD OF ROXXON'S PROJECT TO "SAVE" THE MELTING GLACIERS, RECEIVES SOME VERY UNSETTLING NEWS.

THOSE STATIONS PROVIDE US WITH THE ENERGY WE NEED TO MELT THE ICE-CAPS -- IF WE LOSE THEM, WE CAN'T FLOOD THE SAVAGE LAND!

AND IF WE DON'T FLOOD IT, IT REMAINS A PROTECTED RESOURCE, NOT OPEN TO OIL EXTRACTION!

NOW GET SOME WORK CREWS DOWN THERE AND FIX --

KRASH

-- WHA --?

WHERE'S ROTH?!

WE'VE GOT YOUR **NUMBER**, ROTH!

WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO **SAVE** THE GLACIERS -- YOU'RE **MELTING THEM!**

ROXXON HAS NO HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS -- ROXXON'S ONLY INTEREST IN THE SAVAGE LAND IS IN THE **OIL** UNDERNEATH IT!

GO AHEAD, ROTH -- GIVE ME A REASON!

DENY IT! I BEG YOU --

AHEM! WELL,

ACTUALLY, WHILE ROXXON HAD NO ***PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE*** OF THESE VAST ***OIL RESERVES*** --

-- CERTAINLY YOU MUST ***AGREE*** THAT THESE ***SAVAGES*** HAVE NO USE FOR --

HURK!

I OUGHTA KILL YOU!

ALL YOU DO IS SIT UP HERE IN YOUR ***IVORY TOWER*** AND THINK ABOUT YOUR ***OIL*** AND YOUR ***MONEY*** --

-- NEVER CONSIDERING THE RESULTS OF YOUR ACTIONS --

-- NEVER WONDERING WHO ***SUFFERS FOR YOUR GREED!***

I WANNA *KILL* YOU SO *BAD*, ROTH, YOU *ARROGANT, CONDESCENDING SLIME!*

YOU'RE SO FOND OF CALLING *THEM "SAVAGES"*, BUT THEY WOULD *NEVER* DO TO *ANYONE* WHAT *YOU'VE DONE* TO *THEM!*

THEY'RE MORE *CIVILIZED* THAN YOU COULD EVER *HOPE* TO BE, YOU *SCUM* --

-- AND SO AM *I!*

HUNH!

TAKE ROTH AWAY! POST A *GUARD* -- I WANT HIM *CONFINED* TO HIS *QUARTERS!*

LORD PLUNDER... *KA-ZAR..?!* I... I'M *SORRY*, WE... *DIDN'T KNOW...*

...I-IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN *DO?* ANY WAY WE CAN *REVERSE* THE *DAMAGE..?*

JUST ONE *SLIM CHANCE*, AGENT TOWNSEND -- AND *BELIEVE ME...*

"...WE HAVE OUR *TOP MEN* WORKING ON IT."

GO, MY BROTHERSSS -- TEAR DOWN THE HUMANSSS' SSSTRUCTURE!

DESSSTROY THE CITADEL THAT WOULD DESSSTROY OUR HOME!

AND, MANY MILES TO THE WEST --

SEE..?! I *TOLDJA* THIS WAS GONNA BE *FUN!*

KRRRRRRRR

RRRRRRIPP

SPK

SK

SKIK

WELL, LET'S *GO!*

WE'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE MORE *MILES* TO GO!

YEAH.

SNAP

AND ELSEWHERE...

...NO, YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND*...

...WE'VE BEEN *FOUND OUT!* THAT *KA-ZAR* AND HIS *DISGUSTING NATIVES* CAME *RIGHT UP HERE* AND *SPILLED* IT *ALL* TO *TOWNSEND!*

THE *UNITED NATIONS* AND *S.H.I.E.L.D.* NOW KNOW OF OUR *TRUE MOTIVES* TO *INUNDATE* THE SAVAGE LAND AND *SECURE* THE *DRILLING RIGHTS* FOR *ROXXON!*

YOU HAVE TO *GET ME OUT OF HERE! PULL* SOME *STRINGS!* SPEND SOME *HUSH MONEY* TO *COVER THIS UP!*

*UNFORTUNATELY FOR **YOU**, ROTH, THAT IS **NOT** OUR **INTENTION** AT ALL.*

*WE, HERE AT **ROXXON**, CANNOT AFFORD TO BE **IMPLICATED** IN THIS MATTER. WE INTEND TO SIMPLY **DISAVOW** ANY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR ACTIONS.*

*OUR **REPORTS** WILL **INDICATE** THAT YOU ACTED **ON YOUR OWN, OVERZEALOUS** IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO **CLIMB** THE **COMPANY LADDER.***

BUT... BUT...

*THIS WILL BE OUR **LAST** TRANSMISSION, ROTH --*

*-- **GOODBYE.***

THEY'VE *HUNG ME OUT TO DRY!* I'M THE *SCAPEGOAT!*

ALL THE *BLAME* WILL FALL ON *ME!*

WELL, I'M NOT GOING DOWN *ALONE!*

I CAN STILL *ACCESS* THE *EXPLOSIVES* FROM HERE --

-- AND IF I CAN *DETONATE* THEM *SIMULTANEOUSLY* -- *BLOW ALL THE DAMS AT ONCE* --

-- HOPEFULLY, I CAN TAKE THAT *FILTHY SAVAGE DOWN WITH ME!*

BOOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BAWHOOM

BOOM

BOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM CHOOM

SKRP

SKK

KRKL

WHAT TH --

Eh?! DID THESSSE HUMANSSS DECCCEIVE ME..?!

KEVIN..?

WHAT THE SAM HILL WAS THAT?

EXPLOSIVES, SIR...

...ROTH MUST'VE HAD THEM RIGGED TO ALL THE DAMS THAT SURROUND THE SAVAGE LAND.

MY GOD.

THE ECHOES FROM THE EXPLOSIONS STILL REVERBERATE ACROSS THE VALLEY --

-- AS BILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER ROAR DOWN INTO THE LOWER LEVELS OF THE SAVAGE LAND!

AN INCREDIBLE FORCE OF NATURE --

-- IT DESTROYS EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH!

DRAWN BY GRAVITY, IT CASCADES DOWN THE VALLEY WALLS --

-- SEARCHING FOR THE BOTTOM OF THE ENORMOUS BASIN --

-- SEEKING ITS OWN LEVEL!

OKAY, SPIDEY --

-- THIS BETTER WORK.

AND IT DOES!

AS THE CRASHING, RUSHING WATER POURS DOWN FROM ALL SIDES --

-- CREATING A WHIRLPOOL --

-- SPIRALING DOWN INTO THE CRATER CARVED BY THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE MIGHTY HULK AND THE RAMPAGING CHTYLOK!

COMMANDER TOWNSEND -- Dr. ROTH HAS ESCAPED!

OKAY, HILL -- TAKE SEVEN MEN -- I WANT ROTH CAPTURED AND --

NO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THOSE EXPLOSIVES -- THIS WHOLE AREA SHOULD BE UNDERWATER BY NOW!

BUT SINCE IT'S NOT, I'LL TAKE MY REFUGE IN THIS GODFORSAKEN WILDERNESS UNTIL I CAN FIND A --

...LET HIM GO...

AND --

NO! THEY WON'T GET ME! I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL --!

-- I REFUSE TO TAKE THE FALL FOR THIS ENTIRE DEBACLE!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

I'M SURE THAT I HEARD SOME KIND OF BEA --

THWAMM

HUNH!

WUMP

MY GOD -- WHAT DID I RUN INTO?! IT FELT LIKE A...

...A...

SKRAAAW!

AAAAAAAIIII!

IT WAS ONLY BY ***NECCCESSSITY*** -- TO ***SSSAVE*** OUR ***MUTUAL HOMESSS*** -- THAT I DEEMED TO ***JOIN*** WITH YOU, ***KA-ZAR*** --

-- BUT ***KNOW*** THAT WHEN ***NEXT*** WE ***MEET,*** IT WILL BE ASSS ***ENEMIESSS!***

THEN, WITH ALL DUE ***RESPECT,*** STEGRON -- I HOPE I NEVER SEE YOU ***AGAIN.***

HE'S GOT A NICE WAY OF SAYING ***GOODBYE,*** DOESN'T HE..?

LISTEN, KAZE -- IT WAS ***GREAT*** SEEING YOU, MAN, BUT I GOTTA ***BOOK,*** TOO.

HEY, TAKE CARE -- AND ***THANKS!*** IT WAS ***YOUR*** IDEA THAT ***PULLED IT ALL TOGETHER!*** WE --

*<YOU **SEE**, LORD KA-ZAR -- IT WAS AS THE **LEGEND** FORETOLD -- IN THE END IT **WAS** THE **CHTYLOK** THAT SAVED US! -->*

*-- **RISING UP** FROM THE EARTH TO **PROTECT US** FROM **DISASTER!***>

*<THE CHTYLOK **RETURNS** TO THE EARTH NOW TO **SLEEP** --*

*<-- BUT SHOULD **OUR PEOPLE** HAVE **NEED** OF IT **AGAIN** --*

*<-- THE **CHTYLOK** WILL RISE UP FROM HIS ENDLESS SLUMBER ONCE MORE!>*

...WHAT'D HE SAY?

Uh...

...HE SAID *"**THANK YOU**"*...

THE ***WEB-THWIPPIN'*** END!

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN®

MAY '97 16

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WHO IS THE NEW PROWLER?!

RON & CASE

MINDY BROWN HASN'T SLEPT ALL TOO WELL SINCE SHE'S RETURNED TO NEW YORK...

SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN SEPARATED FOR JUST A FEW WEEKS, HER JOB HAVING TAKEN HER TO CALIFORNIA, WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE CALL ABOUT THE "ACCIDENT."

SHE FLEW TO HIS SIDE IMMEDIATELY.

NOW SHE SPLITS HER TIME, STAYING HERE TO SUPPORT HER HUSBAND, WHILE TRYING TO DO A JOB THAT'S 3,000 MILES AWAY!

SHE'S BOTH MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED YET HER SLEEP IS LIGHT, ERRATIC --

SHRIK

-- INTERRUPTED..!?

DID I HEAR THAT... OR DREAM IT?

I DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN THE SOUNDS OF THIS HOUSE, THE CITY --

-- BUT WITH HOBIE GONE --

-- MAYBE I AM A BIT SPOOKED!

-- GASP! --

... HO --

... HOBIE..?!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN IN:

PARALYZED!

NO, NOT HOBIE... NOT EVER AGAIN!

TODD DEZAGO MIKE WIERINGO RICH CASE
STORY & ART

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/LA
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EARLY DAWN.

FOREST HILLS.

THE PARKER HOME.

OWW!

Oh, COME ON! THAT DIDN'T HURT -- YA BIG WUS!

WELL, STOP POKING AT IT...

I'M NOT 'POKING'. IT HURTS BECAUSE IT'S NOT GETTING BETTER... I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD LET SOMEONE LOOK AT THIS, PETER.

AND TELL THEM WHAT, MARY JANE..? THAT I WAS BITTEN BY A VAMPIRE..?!

SPIDEY WAS NOSHED ON BY THE LIVING VAMPIRE **MORBIUS** IN **PETER PARKER SPIDERMAN #77**
-- Renfield Ralf.

ANYWAY, WHERE WOULD I FIND THE TIME? BETWEEN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL, MY JOB DOWN AT THE DAILY BUGLE --

-- NOT TO MENTION WACKOS LIKE THE CHAMELEON, THE ROSE, AND DELILAH COMING AFTER ME WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT...

I BARELY HAVE TIME TO REFILL MY WEB-SHOOTERS! BESIDES, IF THERE WAS ANYTHING TO MORBIUS' BITE --

-- I'M SURE THAT MY OWN RADIOACTIVE BLOOD MUST'VE NEUTRALIZED IT BY NOW!

Oh, DENIAL'S A GOOD SIGN... HOLD STILL --

SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF **AMAZING** AND **SPECTACULAR** --
Receptionist Ralf.

OWWW!

YOO HOO, KIDS --

IT'S AUNT ANNA..!

I'M ABOUT TO DO A WASH AND I THOUGHT I'D JUST GRAB YOUR LAUNDRY BASKET...

Oh...

...NO!

Er...

... Um ...

... HANG ON, AUNT ANNA --

SHUFF

-- I, Um, HAVE ONE LAST THING I WANNA THROW IN THERE!

TOSS

Er, Um, ACTUALLY, Y'KNOW -- YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO OUR LAUNDRY...

Oh, NONSENSE, DEAR! I DON'T MIND. I ALWAYS --

THAT'S JUST IT -- YOU'RE *ALWAYS* TAKING SUCH GOOD *CARE* OF US... I FEEL LIKE WE'RE *IMPOSING* --

MARY JANE! WHAT HAS GOTTEN *INTO YOU !?!* --

-- IT'S ABSOLUTELY *NO IMPOSITION AT ALL!* WHY, IT'S THE VERY *LEAST* I CAN DO CONSIDERING --

Oh, *LOOK!* THE NEW *NEIGHBORS* MUST BE *MOVING IN!*

-- *WHAT...?*

Oh --

-- YES.

THWIP

YANK

OKAY. YOU *WIN.* BUT I'M MAKING *BREAKFAST!* WE'LL BE DOWN IN JUST A FEW *MINUTES.*

Uh...

THANKS!

SHUT

?

Oh YEAH -- YOU OWE ME *BIG!*

FROM A DISTANCE, WATCH MYSELF...

I LEAP OUT INTO SPACE...

...AND TECHNOLOGY I DEVELOPED HOLDS ME ALOFT, DEFIES GRAVITY...

I CAN FLY...

...CLINGING TO A WALL WITH GLOVES I MADE...

...BECAUSE OF ME.

AND IT FAILS...

... FALLING ...

... FAILING ...

... BREAKING ...

...BECAUSE OF ME...

KRAK

...BECAUSE I AM BROKEN...

AND THEN I SEE THE HAND (MY HAND) PULL BACK THE MASK...

(NOT ME)

...ON THE FACE OF AN INNOCENT, DEAD...

NNNNOOOO

...BECAUSE OF ME!

-- *nnn**NNNOOOO!***

HOBIE..?

Oh, ***MIN*** -- IT WAS... *A* ***DREAM?!***

WHAT WAS IT, HOBIE -- ***TELL*** ME.

I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, ***MINDY*** -- IT'S SO ***FRUSTRATING*** JUST LYING HERE ***HELPLESS*** -- KNOWING THAT SOMEONE HAS ***STOLEN*** MY ***COSTUME*** --

-- THAT SOMEONE COULD BE ***HURT*** OR ***KILLED*** BECAUSE OF ***ME,*** BECAUSE OF SOMETHING ***I*** DESIGNED.

HOBIE BROWN WAS PARALYZED AS A CASUALTY OF THE "GREAT GAME" AS CHRONICLED IN **SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #14** – ER Ralf.

AND I'M ***STUCK*** HERE IN THIS ***BED,*** ***POWERLESS*** TO DO ANYTHING ***ABOUT IT!***

HOBIE, IT'S NOT YOUR ***FAULT*** --

I ***KNOW*** IT'S NOT -- BUT THAT DOESN'T ***MATTER,*** I STILL FEEL ***RESPONSIBLE...***

SO WHERE DO I START ***LOOKING?***

SPIDER-MAN?!

HEY -- NOT SO LOUD, HOBIE! DON'T YOU WATCH ER...? YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE QUIET IN A HOSPITAL.

BESIDES, I'M TRYING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE. I WAS JUST SWINGIN' BY TO SEE HOW MY OLD PROWLER PAL * WAS DOING -- MINDY LET ME IN...

...AND TOLD ME ABOUT THE BREAK-IN. SOUNDS LIKE YOUR COSTUME WAS ALL THEY WANTED, HOBIE -- WHICH MEANS SOMEONE HAD THE 411 ON YOU...

...SO... WHO ELSE KNOWS THAT YOU'RE THE PROWLER?

* HOBIE BROWN WAS AN ELECTRONICS WHIZ WHO CREATED THE PROWLER IDENTITY TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO HIS MANY INVENTIONS. FIRST ENCOUNTERED BY SPIDEY IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #78 -- Long-winded Ralf.

NO ONE THAT COULD BE A SUSPECT... MINDY, YOU, MY OLDER BROTHER, ABE, AND THE ROCKET RACER... NOT REALLY ANYTHING TO GO ON.

SORRY.

HEY, NOTHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT. DON'T WORRY, HOBIE --

-- IF SOMEONE'S OUT THERE JOY-RIDING IN YOUR COSTUME -- BELIEVE ME, HE'S GONNA MAKE SOME NOISE SOONER OR LATER...

...YOU WORK ON GETTING OUT OF THAT BED --

-- AND LET ME CHASE AFTER OUR LITTLE PROWLER WANNABE..!

AND, SHORTLY --

MAN, HOBIE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN REALLY ***ROUGH SHAPE***... THIS WHOLE THING IS REALLY ***EATING AWAY*** AT HIM! THE ***DOCTORS*** SAY THAT THERE ISN'T ANY ACTUAL ***NERVE DAMAGE*** -- THAT HE HAS SOMETHING THEY CALL NERVE ***TRAUMA*** --

-- WHICH MEANS THAT, WITH THERAPY, HE ***SHOULD*** BE ABLE TO ***WALK AGAIN!*** AND HOBIE'S ***DETERMINED*** ENOUGH TO ***DO IT!*** BUT UNTIL ***THEN...***

... HE'S JUST SO... ***FRUSTRATED!*** I CAN'T ***IMAGINE*** FEELING SO ***HELPLESS*** --

-- AND ***RESPONSIBLE...***

WELL, ***RESPONSIBILITY'S*** SOMETHING ***I*** KNOW A LITTLE BIT ***ABOUT...***

THWIPP

...SO LET'S SEE IF THIS ***FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WALL-CRAWLER*** CAN'T GET THE SCOOP ON THIS ***PROWLER IMPOSTOR!***

AND IN A SMALL APARTMENT, NOT TOO FAR AWAY --

THIS IS SO SWEET! --

-- STEALIN' THIS STUFF WAS THE BEST THING I'VE EVER DONE!

WITH THIS SUIT AND THE THINGS IT CAN DO -- I'M BULLETPROOF! I'M TNT! NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME!

NOW THAT I GOT THE POWER, I'M GONNA GATHER SOME FUNDS...

...AND MAYBE A LITTLE JUSTICE...

SHOOOSH

YEAH, RICHES AND REVENGE --

-- THAT'S WHAT THIS PROWLER'S ALL ABOUT!

SOON --

HERE'S THE *ADDRESS*... MAN, THIS PLACE PRACTICALLY *SCREAMS* HIGH RENT...

... *GOOD!* WITH THIS *COSTUME* THIS IS GONNA BE A *PIECE O' CAKE* --

SHUKT

VRRT

... GLASS CUTTER...

-- ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THIS PARTICULAR *TENANT* ISN'T *HOME* TONIGHT...

NO, TONIGHT HE'S *CONVENIENTLY* RECOVERING FROM A *TRIPLE BY-PASS* DOWN AT --

-- Huh?!

COULDA SWORN I SAW SOMETHING...

...*NAH!* ... EVERYTHING'S *COOL!*

WHRRR

AND ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN MINUTES LATER --

THIS IS A *GREAT GIG!*

IF I KEEP MAKIN' *SCORES* LIKE THIS, I'M GONNA BE A *MILLIONAIRE* IN --

--NO!

Oh, YES!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, PROWLER!

I OWE YOU!

I OWE YOU FOR DESTROYING MY PLANS -- FOR FOILING MY TAKEOVER OF BESTMAN ELECTRONICS!

AND THE VULTURE ALWAYS GETS REVENGE!

V-VULTURE?!

AS SEEN IN THE PROWLER LIMITED SERIES – Raptor Ralf.

W-W-WAIT!

WAIT, MAN -- I'M NOT ME! I MEAN, I'M NOT WHO I AM! I'M NOT HIM!

?

AHEM

SEE, THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM RIGHT THERE --

-- PRONOUN TROUBLE!

KRAK

-- HULFF!

WHAT ARE ***YOU*** DOING HERE, ***VULCHY?*** LAST I KNEW, YOU WERE OFF PLANNING TO ***KILL*** ANYONE WHO EVER ***LOOKED AT YOU,*** OR SOMETHING?!

I'M ***DONE!***

... ESCAPING ...?

OR RATHER, I ***WILL*** BE DONE ONCE I'VE ***RID MYSELF*** OF ***YOU*** AND YOUR ***ESCAPING FRIEND!***

Uh Oh.

POW

KE RASSHH

BOY, *THIS* IS EMBARRASSING...

...I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL MEETING HERE TO WATCH *CONAN* TOGETHER...

Er...

...Um...

...I OUGHTA...

...

...YEAH.

GREAT! NOT ONLY DO I GET *PLOWED* BY A *REFORMED SEPTUAGENARIAN* --

-- BUT NOW I'VE LOST THE *PRETEND PROWLER,* TOO! NOW I'VE GOTTA START *ALL OVER AGAIN..!*

HOWEVER, SEVERAL HOURS LATER --

NOTHING!

IT'S LIKE THEY *VANISHED* INTO *THIN AIR!*

I'LL GIVE THE WEBS ONE *LAST SPIN,* BUT THEN IT'S *SORRY,* HOBIE --

"-- BUT *THIS* LITTLE SPIDER HAS TO GO TO *WORK* IN THE MORNING!"

PAGE 17?!

I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE *SAVAGE LAND* FOR PAGE *17?!*

UN REPO[RT] [PA]GE LAND OUT O[F] DANGER

YOUR POINT?

I BROUGHT BACK *ALL THOSE PHOTOS -- COLOR,* BECAUSE YOU WERE GONNA RUN THEM IN THE SUNDAY *'MAGAZINE'* --

-- NOT TO MENTION THE *STORY! ROXXON* WAS PURPOSELY *FLOODING* THE PLACE FOR THE *OIL!**

IT WAS *ENVIRONMENTAL SABOTAGE,* JONAH --

-- AND YOU RUN ONE LITTLE PHOTO ALONG-SIDE THE *U.N.'S 'OFFICIAL' COVER-UP' STATEMENT"..?*

* SEE LAST ISSUE – J Jonah Ralf.

WHAT DO *YOU* CARE?! YOU GOT *PAID!*

BESIDES, MOST OF OUR READERS DON'T EVEN *BELIEVE* IN THE SAVAGE LAND!

THEY THINK IT'S A MYTH..! LIKE *BIGFOOT...* AND *ELVIS!*

ROXXON'S CORRUPT, JONAH! AND *YOU'RE* BUYING THE *WHITEWASH* IF --

PROOF! YOU'RE A GOOD *PHOTOGRAPHER,* PARKER, BUT A LOUSY *REPORTER..!* YOU NEED *PROOF* TO RUN A STORY LIKE *THAT!*

THIS IS A *REPORTER. PETER PARKER --BILLY WALTERS --*

BILLY'S GOING TO BE A NEW *FREELANCE REPORTER* FOR THE *BUGLE,* PETER...

... AND *YOU'RE* GOING TO HELP *BREAK HIM IN!*

Huh?

GREAT *WORKING* WITH YOU.

NOW THERE'S SOME KIND OF *DISTURBANCE* OVER ON 38TH STREET, AND YOU TWO ARE GOING TO COVER IT...

BUT... *BUT...*

GREAT.

AND ON 38TH STREET --

... THINK THIS IS SO *FAR OUT!* I KNOW WE'RE GONNA BE A *GREAT TEAM!* IT'S LIKE...

WONDERFUL.

THE *PROWLER!?* --

-- AND FROM THE *LOOKS* OF THINGS, HOBIE'S *WORST NIGHTMARES* ARE ABOUT TO *COME TRUE!* HAVE TO *SLIP AWAY,* CHANGE TO *SPIDER-MAN,* AND --

TO BE CONTINUED...

DON'T *WORRY,* PETE -- I'M *RIGHT BEHIND YA!*

YOU'RE MY *SENSEI,* DUDE -- WHERE YOU *LEAD,* I *FOLLOW...*

Oh, GREAT.

STAN LEE presents:

BROTHER'S KEEPER 2

TODD DEZAGO writer RICH CASE artist

RS/COMICRAFT/LA letters GREGORY WRIGHT colors

GCW seps MACCHIO editor HARRAS chief

THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE --

-- LOCATED SOME 40 MILES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY --

THANKS AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN, FOR DOING THIS...

WELL, IT'S Uh... ... THE ... LEAST I COULD DO...

-- WHERE THE FACILITY'S FOUNDER AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, Dr. ASHLEY KAFKA, UPDATES OUR FAVORITE WEBHEAD --

AS YOU CAN SEE, DAVID'S CONDITION IS STILL DETERIORATING...

... LITERALLY..!

-- ON THE PROGNOSIS OF DAVID KALEN, THE MAN ALSO KNOWN AS THE EMBITTERED -- OK!

ACTUALLY, HE'S BEEN ON THE ***DECLINE*** SINCE HE FIRST CAME HERE...

HE SUFFERS FROM A ***SEVERE DEPRESSION*** -- WHAT SOME REFER TO AS ***SURVIVOR'S GUILT*** -- UNABLE TO FULLY ***ACCEPT*** HIS ***BROTHER'S DEATH.***

"AS YOU KNOW, DAVID AND ***HENRY*** KALEN WERE ***ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS*** -- HIRED BY ***SANDERS CHEMICAL*** TO MONITOR THEIR ***TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL*** --

"-- WHEN THEY DISCOVERED ***HIDDEN, ILLEGAL DUMPSITES*** THAT WERE ***POLLUTING*** AND ***POISONING*** THE LAND. THEY ***CONFRONTED*** SANDERS --

"-- WHO LED THEM TO YET ***ANOTHER*** SECRET DUMPSITE, THIS ONE ***SABOTAGED,*** MINED WITH ***EXPLOSIVES.***

"THE BROTHERS WERE KILLED --

-- OR SO SANDERS ***THOUGHT*** UNTIL DAVID KALEN ***CRAWLED*** UP OUT OF THAT ***TOXIC SLUDGE,*** SEEKING REVENGE AS THE ***MONSTROUS DK!***

IT WAS ***YOU*** WHO TALKED HIM ***OUT*** OF KILLING SANDERS -- AND ***INTO*** COMING ***HERE!***

ONLY IT ***WASN'T ME!*** ***BEN*** WAS SPIDER-MAN WHEN HE CLASHED WITH DK.*

*BEN REILLY, THE LATE, LAMENTED CLONE OF PETER PARKER -- Ralf.

BUT Dr. KAFKA DOESN'T KNOW THAT...

BUT, DOC -- WHAT CAN I DO..?

RECENTLY, DAVID HAS BEEN 'LOSING IT' -- SPORADICALLY TURNING INTO DK AND USING HIS ABILITY TO DEGENERATE THINGS WITH A TOUCH!

WE FEAR THAT, IN HIS DEPRESSION, DAVID MAY SUBCONSCIOUSLY BE TRYING TO... KILL HIMSELF.

THAT HIS POWER HAS TURNED ITSELF INWARD...

...THAT HE'S TRYING TO DECAY HIMSELF! HE'S BECOME VERY DANGEROUS...

SINCE DAVID ORIGINALLY SIGNED HIMSELF INTO RAVENCROFT, WE HAVE NO LEGAL HOLD ON HIM, AND LATELY, HE'S BEEN TALKING OF LEAVING!

HE TRUSTS YOU. WE WERE HOPING THAT IF YOU SPOKE WITH HIM THAT MAYBE YOU COULD CONVINCE HIM TO STAY...

WHAT AM I GONNA SAY..? I DON'T EVEN KNOW THIS GUY... I WISH I DID, I WISH...

... I WISH BEN WERE HERE...

DAVID..?

DAVID, SPIDER-MAN STOPPED BY TO SEE YOU -- HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU STAYING --

STAY..?

I DON'T WANT TO STAY, ASHLEY! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?!

I WANT TO *LEAVE!*

WHOA! WHOA! DAVID. DAVID. DAVID. EASY, MAN --

THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A *LADY*... OR A *CLIPBOARD!*

THWIP

SPLORT

C'MON, DAVE -- LET'S ALL GO SIT DOWN, HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE AND --

NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS PLACE --

I'M LEAVING NOW!

SPRAKK

GREAT! HE DKED THE ENTIRE WALL --

-- BUT THAT WAS ALL THAT WAS HOLDING UP THE CEILING!

KRASSSHH

WELL, HE WON'T BE HARD TO FOLLOW..! HE'S REALLY OUT OF CONTROL -- DISINTEGRATING THE FLOOR AS HE GOES!

I WISH I KNEW HOW BEN ORIGINALLY BEAT THIS GUY --

-- SO MAYBE I COULD PULL THE SAME TRICK OUTTA MY --

WELL, HE *DEFINITELY* CAME *THIS WAY* -- AND HE'S MOVING *SO FAST..!*

AT LEAST HE'S *NOT* --

THAT SCREAM!

EEAAA

Oh NO! MY GOD...

...DISINTEGRATED... DECOMPOSED...

HE'S *LOST IT!* HE'S --

-- *NO!*

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN®

JUN '97 17

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

VULTURE'S PREY!

OKAY... HERE'S THE 411.

FOR THE MOST PART OF LAST NIGHT, **PETER PARKER** AKA THE **SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN,** WAS SPENDING MUCH OF HIS TIME DOING A FAVOR FOR A **FRIEND**...

... A FELLOW CRIMEFIGHTER NAMED **HOBIE BROWN,** RECENTLY PARALYZED IN ACTION.

SEEMS SOMEBODY **TIPPED** TO HOBIE'S **SECRET IDENTITY** AND MADE OFF WITH THE COSTUME AND CUTTING-EDGE, HI-TECH GADGETS THAT HOBIE WORE AS **THE PROWLER!** SO SPIDEY WENT OUT LOOKING FOR THEM...

... BUT CAME UP **EMPTY!**

UNTIL JUST NOW!

NOW, WHILE ON ASSIGNMENT AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE **DAILY-BUGLE,** PETER'S **FOUND** HIS PROWLER-IMPOSTOR --

RIGHT **BEHIND YA,** PETE! **YOU** LEAD, **I** FOLLOW --

-- GONNA STICK TO YOU LIKE **GLUE,** MAN!

-- THERE'S JUST **ONE PROBLEM...!**

GREAT! I FINALLY GET A CHANCE TO **TAG** THIS PROWLER WANNABE, BUT I CAN'T SWITCH TO SPIDEY CAUSE I CAN'T DITCH MY NEW **"PARTNER"**...

LOOK -- BILLY!

... **YOU** STAY HERE AND GET THE **STORY! I'LL** GO GET THE **PHOTOS!**

BY **MYSELF!**

...**BILLY WALTERS, CUB REPORTER!**

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS...

DON'T TRY TO **PROTECT ME,** PETE -- I CAN **HANDLE** IT! I'M **READY** FOR THE DANGER!

...**D'OH!**

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?! THIS PROWLER'S GOT SOME KINDA SERIOUS **MAD ON!** AND IF I DON'T GET UP THERE AS SPIDEY PRETTY **QUICK** --

"-- HE'S GONNA USE HOBIE'S *STUFF* TO *HURT A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE!*"

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN IN: HELPLESS!

A DEZAGO WIERINGO CASE CONSTRUCTION

Stan Lee

NOT SUCH A TOUGH GUY NOW, ARE YA, RIZZO?!

I DON'T HEAR YA LAUGHIN' AT ME ANY-MORE..!

C-C'MON, CHIEF -- I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* YOU!

R.STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KS LETTERS

JOE ANDREANI COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO FOREMAN

BOB HARRAS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS

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NO, BILLY! THIS IS THE WAY IT **WORKS!** THE REPORTER **OBSERVES!** THE **PHOTOGRAPHER** GETS THE **PICS!**

NOW STOP **LOOKING AT ME** AND **WATCH YOUR STORY!**

DUDE! THIS IS **SERIOUS!** WHO IS THIS **PSYCHO,** PETE -- HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA **KILL** THAT GUY!

PETE...

DON'T KNOW ME?! YOU RUINED MY LIFE!

YOU **FIRED ME** EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW I **NEEDED THIS JOB** TO FINISH **MED SCHOOL!**

L-LAWSON...?

?

BUT I'VE GOT **POWER** NOW, TOUGH GUY!

I DON'T NEED **MED SCHOOL,** I DON'T NEED YOUR **LOUSY JOB,** AND I **DON'T! NEED! YOU!**

NOOOo!

TAP

SPRANG

Uh-Uh-Uh, FRANK...

...YOU DON'T THINK I'M GONNA LET A LITTLE THING LIKE *AN AIR HOSE* COME BETWEEN ME...

SHUNK!

...AND MY *ULTIMATE REVENGE...* !?!

WHAT IS WITH YOU !?!...

...YOU'RE JUST SO *NEGATIVE* ALL THE TIME...

POWIE

NOW TAKE OFF THAT COSTUME...

SO WE CAN GET IT BACK TO ITS *RIGHTFUL OWNER* BEFORE SOME-ONE GETS HURT...

...AND DON'T *MAKE ME* COME UP THERE, YOUNG MAN...

SWOOOSH

BITE ME, BUG!

YOU *WANT* ME, YOU'RE GONNA HAVETA *CATCH* ME!

Oh, YEAH... *RIGHT*...

...CHASING A *SPUD LIKE YOU* --

-- AROUND A GIANT *JUNGLE GYM* --

-- IS GONNA BE REALLY *TOUGH* FOR A GUY WITH MY PHYSICAL LIMITA-

-TIONS...

Uh Oh.

I'VE HAD THIS STUFF LONG ENOUGH TO'VE FIGURED OUT ALL THE COSTUME'S *TRICKS*, SPIDER-JERK -- AN' I GOT IT *GOIN' ON!*

I ALSO GOT *YOU* FIGURED OUT...

...CAN YOU SAY...

..."*DIVERSION*"..?

FWSSSH

SEE YA.

SNAP!

SNAP!

THHH

THWP THWP

AAAAAAAHHH!

Huh?!

YA DIDN'T THINK I WAS GONNA *MISS IT*, DIDJA..?

AND A SHORT TIME LATER...

Oh, PETER, MAN -- DID YOU SEE IT? I MEAN, PLEASE TELL ME YOU SAW IT! TELL ME YOU GOT SOME GREAT PICTURES, DUDE..?!

YEAH, I... THINK I GOT ONE OR TWO FROM THE ROOF ACROSS THE WAY...

MAN, THAT WAS SO... INCREDIBLE! I MEAN, THAT PROWLER-GUY GOT AWAY, BUT --

YEAH, THE PROWLER-POSER GOT AWAY... SO ONCE AGAIN, I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS TO BRING BACK TO HOBIE... BUT I ALSO CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE VULTURE CIRCLING ABOVE DURING THAT FIASCO --

-- AND THAT ONLY SPELLS MORE TROUBLE..! VULCHY WANTS TO KILL THE PROWLER IN THE WORST WAY --

-- NOT TO MENTION SPIDER-MAN -- AND HE DOESN'T CARE WHO'S IN THE COSTUME!

WE HOPE YOU SPOTTED HIM, TOO. IF YOU DIDN'T, GO BACK AND LOOK. REALLY, GO ON... WE'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR YOU. – Recognizin' Ralf.

-- I MEAN, I'VE SEEN THEM ON TV AND STUFF, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY OF THESE GUYS, LIKE, Y'KNOW -- LIVE! IN PERSON! --

-- I'M NOT FROM THE CITY -- I GREW UP IN PORT JERVIS, AND WE NEVER --

MAN, DOES THIS GUY EVER STOP..?!

I'VE HEARD OF OVER-ENTHUSIASM, BUT THIS BORDERS ON OBNOXIOUS! JONAH WANTS ME TO SHOW HIM THE ROPES, BUT HE'S SO GREEN!

-- AND SPIDER-MAN..!

...DUDE, SPIDER-MAN LIKE, RULES OUTRIGHT! DIDJA SEE HIM SNAG THAT GIRDER LIKE IT WAS NOTHING..?! THAT WAS SO --

THEN AGAIN... MAYBE HE'S NOT THAT BAD...

AND ELSEWHERE...

I DID IT! I BEAT SPIDER-MAN!...

...WELL... I DIDN'T REALLY BEAT 'IM...

...BUT HE DIDN'T GET ME!

IF I CAN KEEP THIS PROWLER GIG GOIN' FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, ROBBIN' THE RICH AND GIVIN' TO ME --

--I'LL BE SET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

FOR NOW I GOTTA GET GOIN' TO WORK -- GET THE ADDRESSES OF SOME OF THE PATIENTS IN THE ICU --

-- SO I CAN STOP BY THEIR HOUSES ON THE WAY HOME... AS THE PROWLER!

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT -- RN Ralf.

YEAH, WITH THIS COSTUME, I'M FINALLY GONNA GET EVERYTHING I EVER DREAMED OF, WHAT LIFE HAS CONSTANTLY CHEATED ME OUT OF...

"...I'M FINALLY GONNA GET WHAT I DESERVE!"

MEANWHILE...

METROP

HEY, HOBIE!

HOW'S MY FAVORITE PARALYZED-SUPER-HERO-WHO'S-SOON-TO-MAKE-A-MIRACULOUS-RECOVERY DOING?

TIRED OF WAITING FOR IT... HOW'RE YOU, WEBS..?

WELL, I WISH I HAD BETTER NEWS... I FOUND THE GUY WHO STOLE YOUR GEAR, BUT THEN THE VULTURE GOT IN THE WAY! THEN I FOUND HIM AGAIN --

-- BUT THE LITTLE SQUID MUST'VE READ "101 WAYS TO ENDANGER AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER"...

...SORRY, HOBES -- I'LL HAVE HIM NEXT TIME.

NO, I'M SORRY. THIS THING IS TURNING INTO A HUGE HEADACHE FOR YOU, AND... AND I... CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP...

...I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME LAYING HERE, JUST THINKING ABOUT IT, OVER AND OVER, FEELING FRUSTRATED... HELPLESS... AND THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME...

"...WHEN ROBBIE BROUGHT ME IN HERE, HE CUT AWAY MOST OF MY COSTUME TO TRY AND PROTECT MY IDENTITY -- BUT IT WAS A BACK INJURY AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE ME...

"...SO WHEN THEY FINALLY DID MOVE ME OFF THE GURNEY, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIG PIECE OF MY COSTUME WITH A LOT OF BUILT-IN TECH...

"...IF SOMEBODY FOUND THAT --

"IT WOULDN'T TAKE A ***ROCKET SCIENTIST*** TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER...GET MY ADDRESS, GRAB MY STUFF..."

THEN ALL WE NEED TO DO IS FIND OUT ***WHO WAS WORKING*** IN THE ***ER*** THAT NIGHT AND --

ALREADY DONE. THERE'S A LIST RIGHT ***THERE***... MINDY AND I GOT ALL THE NAMES THIS MORNING. THERE'S A ***CHECK*** BY THE ONES WE ***THINK*** WE CAN ***RULE OUT***...

WOW, HOBE -- THERE'S NO ***HOLDING YOU BACK, IS THERE?*** YOU'RE GONNA HAVE THIS WHOLE THING ***SOLVED*** BEFORE I CAN EVEN --

SPIDEY...

...WAIT...

...SOMETIMES... I FEEL SO ***HOPELESS***... SO ***HELPLESS***, JUST ***LYING HERE***, UNABLE TO ***DO*** ANYTHING ABOUT ALL THIS I...

...I'M WORRIED THAT SOMETHING IS ***GONNA HAPPEN***, THAT SOMEBODY'S GONNA GET ***HURT*** BECAUSE OF ME... MY COSTUME...

...YOU ***DOING*** THIS... FOR ***ME***...

I JUST WANT TO SAY *'THANKS'*...

ANYTIME, HOBIE... AND ***STOP WORRYING***...

...I'M GONNA ***BRING YOU THIS GUY..!***

LATER...

MAN, WHAT A *HAUL!* JUST LIKE TAKIN' CANDY FROM...

...WELL, FROM SOME *OLD GUY IN A COMA!*

Ah, THE *ELDERLY* CAN BRING US SO MUCH *JOY, CAN'T THEY..?*

Huh?!

I USED TO BE *OLD* ONCE...

...BUT I DIDN'T *LIKE IT.*

W-WHAT DO YOU *WANT..?*

A *CLEAN SLATE.*

AND JUST OVERHEAD --

THIS HAS *GOTTA BE IT*... IT'S THE LAST GUY ON HOBIE'S LIST! RICK LAWSON -- ONE OF THE ORDERLIES IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT HOBIE IN..!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE JUST GOT HOME FROM A *MOONLIGHTING STINT* AS *THE PROWLER..!*

WHOA! STEADY ON, GROMIT...

SUDDENLY MY HEAD'S GONE ALL *'MUSHY'*..!

HIT ME LIKE A *BIG, GIANT ANVIL!* WHAT'S UP WITH *THAT..?!*

* COULD BE THE EFFECTS OF THE BITE SPIDEY SUSTAINED FROM MORBIUS THE LIVING VAMPIRE IN **PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN** 77 – Ralf-irc.

THE *MORBIUS BITE..?* MAYBE...

WELL, *WHATEVER* IT WAS, IT'S *PASSED* NOW...

TIME TO GO INSIDE AND *POP* THIS GUY FOR *HOBIE!*

GERONI --

YOU MAY NOT BE THE PROWLER I *KNOW*... *BUT YOU'LL DO!*

ONCE *YOU'RE* DEAD, I'LL ONLY HAVE TO RID MYSELF OF THAT MEDDLING *SPI* --

-MO!

HIYA, VULCHY -- *FANCY MEETING ME HERE..!*

THWAK

ACTUALLY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING HERE..!*

SMAK

TAK

...THIS IS S'POSED TO BE JUST BETWEEN *ME* AND THE *COSTUME CROOK*...

KUK

I DON'T RECALL SENDING *YOU* AN INVITATION..!

I'VE GOT THE VULTURE ON ***THE ROPES***... AND HE ***KNOWS IT!*** HE'S OUT OF ***HIS ELEMENT***... UNABLE TO ***MANEUVER*** IN SUCH A ***CONFINED AREA***...

...***HEY!*** WHERE'S ***THAT*** LITTLE WEASEL THINK HE'S GOIN'...?!

Oh, NO YA DON'T, ***SNACKY*** -- YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY ***THIS*** TIME --

THWIP

THWIP

THHH

?!

WHA --

--NOOOO!

-- YOU'RE STAYING ***RIGHT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU...***

HO! EASY THERE, VULCHY! I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU ***YET***, EITH --

-ERRRR..?

HEAD... GETTIN' ALL... *'WOOGIE'* AGAIN...

...KINDA SWIMMY AND --

...Oh.

POW

WUBBA... WUBBA...

YOU APPEAR TO BE A TAD ***DISORIENTED***, SPIDER-MAN -- BUT DON'T FEEL ***LEFT OUT***...

...HELP ME...

...AS SOON AS I ***FLAY*** OUR ***FRIEND*** HERE WITH MY RAZOR SHARP WINGS...

...YOU'RE ***NEXT!***

2B CONTINUED!

BROTHER'S KEEPER, TOO

TODD DEZAGO
WRITER

RICH CASE
ARTIST

R.STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KS
LETTERS

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

THE BIG, DRIPPY, OOZY, MAD GUY IS DK! --

-- A CREATURE CREATED WHEN DAVID KALEN, ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER, HENRY, WAS CAUGHT IN THE HEART OF A TERRIBLE (AND SUSPICIOUS) TOXIC WASTE EXPLOSION!

HENRY DIED...

...BUT DAVID SOON FOUND THAT HE HAD ACQUIRED THE HORRIBLE ABILITY TO DECAY AND DECOMPOSE ANY MATERIAL WITH BUT A SINGLE TOUCH OF HIS CORROSIVE HAND..!

HERE AT THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE, KALEN'S SLOW DOWNWARD SPIRAL INTO THE DEPTHS OF DEPRESSION HAS FINALLY CULMINATED IN THIS --

-- A VIOLENT EPISODE OF UNCONTROLLED RAGE, ALREADY RESULTING IN MANY INJURIES AND THE GHASTLY DEATHS OF TWO SECURITY PERSONNEL...

...AND IT ISN'T OVER..!

...THE LITTLE GUY..?

THAT WOULD BE THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!

WHOA!

HSSSSS

WILKINS ©

TAKE IT EASY, DAVID! --

AAAAAAAAHHHHHH!

-- WE CAN HELP YOU -- JUST CALM DOWN!

SPLUKK

NO, SPIDER-MAN! IT'S TOO LATE TO CALM DOWN! TOO LATE TO HELP ME!--

-- TOO LATE TO SAVE ME..!

MAYBE HE'S ***RIGHT!*** HE'S COMPLETELY ***OUT OF CONTROL*** -- ON A ***RAMPAGE!*** AND MAYBE THIS TIME, HE'S INJURED ***INNOCENT PEOPLE, AGING*** THOSE THREE GUARDS OUT IN THE ***HALL*** --

-- AND ***KILLING*** THESE TWO WITH ***JUST*** A TOUCH! --

"-- TURNING THEM TO ***DUST*** --

"-- DISINTEGRATING... ***DECOMPOSING*** THEM --

"-- LEAVING THEM LOOKING LIKE...

"...

"...***BEN*...?!"

SEE THE NOW CLASSIC **PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN #75** FOR THE GRIM DETAILS. -- Remorseful Ralf.

DOCTOR KAFKA WANTS ME TO STAY -- BUT I'M ***TIRED*** OF BEING ***TESTED***, OF BEING ***LOCKED AWAY*** --

-- ***TIRED OF BEING ALONE!***

ALONE...

...THAT'S IT...

...DAVID -- THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU, IS IT? IT'S ABOUT... ***HANK***... AND --

NO! NO! THAT'S NOT IT! I JUST WANT TO LEAVE! --

-- I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!

I THINK I HIT A NERVE...

...AND HE ALMOST HIT ME EXCEPT THAT MY SPIDER-SENSE AND SPIDER-FAST REFLEXES GOT ME OFF GROUND ZERO IN TIME..!

HAVE TO KEEP DAVID MOVING... GET HIM TO TALK THROUGH THIS RAGE...

CHOOOM

I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE! I'M A FREAK! I SHOULD HAVE DIED IN THAT EXPLOSION TOO! --

-- DIED WITH HANK! I...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A BROTHER..?! TO LOSE SOMEONE WHO'S A FRIEND, SOMEONE WHO FEELS LIKE THEY'RE A PART OF YOU..?!

...I...

...YEAH...

...YEAH, I DO... HE...

...HIS NAME WAS ***BEN***...

...HE WAS MY ***BROTHER***...

...AND I ***MISS*** HIM, DAVID...

...BUT I GO ON. WE ***HAVE*** TO GO ***ON***...

YOU NEED TO STAY HERE, DAVID... YOU NEED TO STAY AND LET Dr. KAFKA HELP YOU... SHE CAN, BUT YOU HAVE TO HELP HER...

SPIDER-MAN GET BACK!

WHOA! WHOA! HOLD IT! WE'RE OKAY HERE..!

Oh, NO! Oh, NO! --

-- WHAT HAVE I DONE?! WHAT --

-- WHAT HAVE I DONE..?

A SHORT TIME LATER...

SO WHERE DOES IT GO FROM HERE, DOC?

LEGALLY HE'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE DEATHS OF THOSE GUARDS, BUT HE'LL BE PRONOUNCED MENTALLY UNSTABLE TO DO SO...

...AS FOR HIS EMOTIONAL STATE..? THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH WE CAN *DO*, SPIDER-MAN.

IF HE DOESN'T FIND SOME WAY TO OVERCOME THIS DEADLY DEPRESSION SOON, HE'S GOING TO DESTROY HIMSELF PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS MENTALLY...

...ONLY DAVID CAN DECIDE HIS FATE FROM HERE. IN HIS DESPAIR HE'S TURNED HIS POWER INWARD, SLOWLY DECOMPOSING HIMSELF FROM WITHIN. AND I'M AFRAID OF THIS... SO VERY AFRAID.

End

MARVEL COMICS

AUG
#18

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

Featuring YOUR NEW GUIDE to the MARVEL UNIVERSE!®

WHAT IS THE THING IN THE SHADOWS?

RING OF LIQUID!

DeZAGO ARMSTRONG BOYD

WESTCHESTER --

-- AT A WELL-KNOWN PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE --

...USED HIS **DECOMPOSING ABILITIES** TO **BURROW** OUT OF HIS ROOM, RIGHT OUT OF **THE FACILITY**...

-- WHERE CHIEF OF STAFF, **Dr. ASHLEY KAFKA**, AND HEAD OF SECURITY, **JOHN JAMESON**, DELVE INTO THE RECENT **DISAPPEARANCE** OF ONE OF THEIR MORE **UNSTABLE** "GUESTS"...

RICH..? IT'S **MIKE. TELL** TODD I'M NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO **DO** THIS ONE... YEAH, SOMETHING'S COME UP HERE AT **RAVENCROFT**...

...SET OFF THE SECURITY ALARMS **IMMEDIATELY!** THE **TUNNEL** GOES ON FOR A **FEW MILES** AND THEN EMPTIES OUT INTO A CAVE... **SORRY,** ASHLEY...

BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE **SOME TIME** FOR US TO **TRACK DK DOWN..!**

AND THERE'S LITTLE WE CAN DO ONCE WE CATCH UP TO HIM, JOHN...

DAVID KALEN IS A VERY **DEPRESSED** YOUNG MAN...

THANK YOU I'M SO SORRY

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS HIS CONDITION HAS BEEN **DETERIORATING, MORE SO** SINCE THE **DEATHS** OF THOSE **TWO GUARDS** THE OTHER DAY...

I BELIEVE THAT DAVID HAS BECOME **SUICIDAL** -- THAT HE'S TURNED HIS INCREDIBLE DECAYING POWER **INWARD**, THAT HE'S **DETERMINED** TO **KILL HIMSELF FROM WITHIN**. I **BELIEVE** --

-- THAT DAVID KALEN HAS GONE OFF TO **DIE..!**

SEE LAST ISSUE'S **BROTHER'S KEEPER, TOO** – Raphencroft

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LET'S SEE -- WHERE WERE WE BEFORE WE TOOK A MONTH OFF FOR FLASHBACKS..? WAIT!... OKAY, WE REMEMBER NOW...

HERE'RE THE CLIFF NOTES...

DOING A FAVOR FOR HIS PROWLER PAL, HOBIE BROWN, SPIDEY HAS BEEN HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE IMPOSTOR, WHO STOLE HOBIE'S COSTUME AND GEAR...

...UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN SPIDEY FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO THE PROWLER-WANNABE, SO TOO HAD THE VULTURE, BENT ON MURDEROUS REVENGE AND MORE THAN WILLING TO SLICE SPIDEY UP AS WELL..!

OH, YEAH, AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, SPIDEY IS ALSO FEELING KINDA "WOOGIE" DUE TO THE VAMPIRE BITE HE GOT FROM MORBIUS, THE LIVING VAMPIRE, ABOUT A WEEK AGO..!

WE THINK THAT'S ABOUT IT... WELL, EXCEPT FOR... STAN LEE PRESENTS --

POWERless & RESPONSIBILITY

...I'M THE ONE WHO WEBBED THE PROWLER TO THE WALL... AN' NOW... HE'S A SITTING DUCK FOR THE VULTURE! HAFTA... FOCUS... HAFTA...

HAFTA WAIT YOUR TURN, SPIDER-MAN!

I CAN ONLY CARVE UP ONE COSTUMED IDIOT AT A TIME!

TODD DEZAGO
WRITER
WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO THANK

JASON ARMSTRONG
PENCILS
& RON BOYD, INKS
FOR FILLING IN ON THIS ISSUE!

ALSO THANKS TO
RS & COMICRAFT/KS, LETTERS,
GREGORY WRIGHT, COLORS,
RALPH MACCHIO, EDITOR

AND EVEN
BOB HARRAS, THE CHIEF,
FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS BOOK
SO MUCH FUN TO WORK ON!

...HEAD'S STILL... ***SPINNING***... BUT I HAFTA ***FIGHT THROUGH*** IT...

...I'VE LEFT THAT PROWLER GUY ***HELPLESS***... HAFTA...

WHEN ***I*** WAS AN ***OLD MAN***, YOU ***CONTINUALLY DEFEATED ME*** AT ***EVERY TURN!*** I ***HATED*** YOU FOR THAT!

BUT ***NOW*** THAT I'VE RECAPTURED MY ***YOUTH*** AND ***VITALITY*** --

...FOCUS..?

-- I'M ***MORE*** THAN A ***MATCH*** FOR ***YOU***, YOU ***WEB-HEADED BUFFOON!***

ONCE ***YOU*** AND THE ***PROWLER*** ARE ***DEAD***, MY ***OLD LIFE*** --

-- MY OLD, ***OLD LIFE*** --

-- WILL BE NOTHING BUT A ***MEMORY!*** I'LL HAVE ***BURIED*** MY ***PAST FOREVER!***

KRAK X

UNGH!

AND NOW FOR YOU --

-- DIE! AND TAKE MY PAST WITH YOU!

WHA--

AARRGH!!

SKRRRRPP

OMIGOD-

-- NOOO!

BACK --

-- BACK OFF, VULTURE!

THAK

-- I... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT! YOU'RE... INSANE!

YEAH, LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT! VULCHY NEEDS SOME ROOM TO BE ABLE TO MANEUVER THOSE WINGS..!

...LET'S HOPE THIS'LL KEEP HIM COOPED UP FOR A FEW MINUTES!

THWIPP

JEEZ! HE SLICED HIM RIGHT ACROSS HIS CHEST --

-- BLOOD EVERY-WHERE -- I HOPE HE DIDN'T --

RRRIP

OMIGOD..!

HE'S UNCONSCIOUS -- IN SHOCK... I'LL WEB-BANDAGE THE WOUND 'TIL I CAN GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL...

WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE, I'LL KILL YOU BOTH!

SHUT UP, YOU...

...ANIMAL!

THWIP

HATE LEAVING THE VULTURE TO ***GET AWAY,*** BUT MY ***FIRST PRIORITY'S*** GOTTA BE GETTING ***THIS MOOK*** TO THE ***EMERGENCY ROOM!***

HE CUT HIM ***SO DEEP!*** AND HE'S ***LOST*** SO MUCH ***BLOOD,*** I HOPE HE DOESN'T -- NO. CAN'T ***THINK*** ABOUT THAT! JUST GET HIM TO THE ***HOSPITAL,*** SPIDEY...

THE WEBBING HAS ***SLOWED*** THE ***BLEEDING,*** BUT HE'S STILL A ***MESS!*** AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING THAT IT'S ***MY FAULT!*** I... I PRACTICALLY ***HELD THE GUY DOWN*** AND ***INVITED*** THE VULTURE TO ***EVISCERATE*** HIM!

AND, SHORTLY...

OKAY, THAT'S IT! LET'S FINISH UP...

HE'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. WE GOT YOUR STORY AND WE GOT HIS ***ADDRESS...*** AND ***DON'T WORRY...***

...HE'S NOT GOING ***ANYWHERE!***

AND ANOTHER SHORTLY...

...SO, THAT'S THE ***STORY,*** HOBIE -- THIS LAWSON JERK IS GONNA HAVE A ***CRIMINAL RECORD***... AND A ***HECKUVA SCAR*** AS A SOUVENIR -- BUT ***OTHERWISE,*** HE'S GONNA BE ***ALL RIGHT!***

AND FOR A GUY WHO THOUGHT HE WAS HELPLESS, YOUR ***DETECTIVE WORK WAS DEAD-ON!***

RICK LAWSON WAS AN ***ORDERLY*** HERE THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT YOU IN... SEEMS HE'S A REAL ***BITTER GUY...***

HE ***WANTED*** TO BE A ***DOCTOR,*** BUT KEPT ***FLUNKING*** OUT OF ***MED SCHOOL...*** TO TAKE OUT SOME OF HIS ***FRUSTRATION,*** HE STARTED ***STEALING*** FROM THE ***PATIENTS...***

"...HE FOUND THE ***SCRAP*** OF YOUR ***HIGH-TECH COSTUME*** WHEN THEY CUT IT OFF YOU IN THE ***ER...***

"...BROKE INTO YOUR ***PLACE*** AND ***STOLE*** YOUR OTHER COSTUME...

"...CHECKED YOUR ***FILES,*** GOT YOUR ***ADDRESS...***

BROWN, H

"...AND THOUGHT HE'D DO A LITTLE ***PROWLING*** OF HIS ***OWN..!***

"...BUT ***WE*** NAILED HIM!

LISTEN, FOLKS, I GOTTA ***GET GOING,*** BUT I'LL SEE --

WELL, AREN'T YOU GOING TO ***TELL HIM..?***

...TELL ME *WHAT?*

WELL, I TOLD YOU HOW BEING ***PARALYZED*** LIKE THIS HAS MADE ME FEEL SO ***HELPLESS***... SO ***IMPOTENT***... I FELT LIKE NOT ONLY WAS MY ***COSTUME*** STOLEN...

BUT MY ***YOUTH***... ***HECK,*** MY ***ENTIRE LIFE,*** AS WELL..!

YOU HELPED GIVE ME ***HOPE,*** SPIDEY -- ***DOIN' THIS*** FOR ME, ***FINDING*** THAT LITTLE ***SLUG***...

WHAT MY EMBARRASSED HUSBAND IS TRYING TO ***TELL YOU,*** SPIDER-MAN, IS THAT THE ***DOCTORS SAY*** THAT HOBIE'S ***NERVE TRAUMA*** HAS ***ABATED***...

...HE'S MAKING ***INCREDIBLE PROGRESS*** IN HIS ***PHYSICAL THERAPY!***

HEY, ***ALL RIGHT!*** I ***KNEW*** THEY COULDN'T KEEP SOMEONE LIKE ***YOU DOWN FOR LONG,*** HOBES!

THEY SAY HE'LL PROBABLY BE WALKING AGAIN IN A WEEK OR SO...

AND I JUST WANTED TO SAY, ***ONCE AGAIN*** --

-- ***THANKS!*** --

-- YOU ARE ***LITERALLY*** THE ***DEFINITION*** OF A ***TRUE FRIEND!***

AW... C'MON, MAN -- YOU'RE MAKING ME ***BLUSH..!***

FOREST HILLS --

-- WHERE RESIDES ONE **PETER PARKER**, AKA THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, **MARY JANE** --

DRAT... I WANTED TO ASK MARY JANE TO LOOK AT THIS...

-- AND, MORE RECENTLY, MARY JANE'S **AUNT, ANNA WATSON.**

...BUT **SHE'S** IN THE DARK-ROOM WITH PETER...

DARKROOM IS IN USE WHEN RED LIGHT IS ON! ☺Peter

AND...

-- AND TODAY WAS MY FIRST DAY WORKING IN THE **HELPCENTER!**

WELL, NOT REALLY **WORKING** -- MORE LIKE **OBSERVING.** THIS GUY THAT I WORK WITH, **GEORGE...**

...SAYS I'LL BE ABLE TO START TAKING CALLS ON MY OWN NEXT WEEK. IT'S **PRETTY EXCITING;** NOT ONLY WILL I BE HELPING PEOPLE, BUT I'LL BE RACKING UP SOME **MAJOR CREDITS** TOWARDS MY **PSYCH DEGREE!**

SO THAT'S **MY** DAY... HOW WAS **YOURS?**

DO YOU WANT BUGLE OR SPIDER-MAN FIRST?

Ummm... **BUGLE!**

WELL, THAT'S KIND OF **WACKY..!** JONAH'S GOT THIS **NEW FREELANCER,** A REPORTER, GUY ABOUT MY AGE, HIS NAME'S BILLY.

HE'S **OKAY,** I GUESS, HE'S JUST SO... **EAGER!**

JAMESON WANTS ME TO **SHOW HIM THE ROPES,** BUT HIS **OVERENTHUSIASM** IS ACTUALLY **SLOWING ME DOWN!**

I THINK I'M GONNA TELL JONAH TO FIND **SOMEONE ELSE** TO **RIDE SHOTGUN** ON HIM.

AS FOR ***SPIDEY...***

I FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THE JERK WHO STOLE THE ***PROWLER COSTUME*** FROM HOBIE... BUT SO HAD ***THE VULTURE..!*** AND WHILE I WAS THROWING DOWN WITH ***HIM*** --

-- THE PROWLER JERK TRIED TO ***SKIP OUT,*** BUT I WAS SO ***DETERMINED*** THAT I WASN'T GONNA LET HIM ***GET AWAY,*** I HIT HIM WITH SOME ***WEB*** AND ***PASTED HIM TO THE WALL!***

FOR JUST A ***MOMENT,*** I... THE VULTURE GOT THE ***ADVANTAGE*** AND ***SLICED*** THAT KID OPEN LIKE A ***GRAPEFRUIT!*** AND ***I*** PRACTICALLY ***HELD THE GUY DOWN FOR HIM!*** --

-- I LEFT HIM ***HELPLESS,*** AND I ***COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!*** I GOT HIM TO THE ***HOSPITAL,*** AND HE'S GONNA BE ***OKAY,*** BUT --

HEY! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU ALWAYS HAVING TO FEEL ***GUILTY?!*** YOU DID THE ***BEST YOU COULD!*** THAT'S WHAT THE GOOD GUYS DO! LET IT ***GO!***

NOW... ARE YOU ***DONE WORKING?***

WELL, I'M DONE ***PRINTING PICTURES...***

...BUT I AIN'T ***DONE*** WITH THE ***DARKROOM..!***

ARKROOM
S IN USE
EN RED
T IS ON!
:) Pete

THEY'RE STILL IN THERE... BUT I WANTED BOTH OF THEM TO ***SEE THIS...***

EVER SINCE THEY MOVED IN LAST WEEK, THE NEIGHBORS HAVE BEEN SO... QUIET...

AND IT'S SO STRANGE! THE LITTLE GIRL JUST STANDS THERE IN THE BACKYARD, SOMETIMES FOR ***HOURS,*** JUST ***STARING...***

...NEVER MAKING A SOUND...

AND, IN THE SPACIOUS UPTOWN MANHATTAN APARTMENT OF YOUNG BUSINESSMAN, ADRIAN TOOMS, THE ELEGANT FRENCH DOORS ALLOW FOR THE LESS THAN GRACEFUL ENTRANCE OF --

-- THE VULTURE!

THUD!

OOF!

DRAT THAT ACCURSED WALL-CRAWLER..!

...ALWAYS GETTING IN THE WAY! ALWAYS INTERFERING WITH MY PLANS!

LEON

DAILY BUGLE

ALWAYS!

FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO -- DEFEATING ME BECAUSE HE WAS YOUNGER, STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL!

DAILY BUGLE SPIDER-MAN MENACE

BUT HE NO LONGER HAS YOUTH AS HIS ADVANTAGE! IN REJUVENATING MYSELF, I'VE TURNED THE TABLES!

GONE IS THE OLD, DECREPIT, FEEBLE VULTURE OF THE PAST...

...I AM YOUNG!

I'VE ***ELIMINATED*** EVERY LAST PERSON WHO EVER ***KNEW ME*** AS THE ANCIENT, WITHERING ***ADRIAN TOOMS... EVERYONE*** BUT --

-- ***SPIDER-MAN!***

CRASH

THUD

BUT I ***WILL*** KILL HIM! AND ONCE THAT ***MEDDLING FOOL*** IS ***DEAD*** --

-- THERE WILL BE ***NO ONE*** TO REMEMBER ME AS AN ***OLD MAN!*** MY ***PAST*** WILL BE ***TRULY BURIED!*** I WILL BEGIN MY LIFE ***ANEW*** --

-- ***AND I WILL BE YOUNG FOREVER!***

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA-

NOEL DE LEON

THE OFFICES OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE --

-- MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THAT FINE PUBLICATION.

...IN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE PHOTOS, PARKER!

WAIT, JONAH -- I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS BILLY THING...

...SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN! HE'S EVERYWHERE! DOESN'T THE MENACE HAVE A DAY JOB, FOR PETE'S SAKE..?!

BILLY IS GREEN. HE'S OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC, AND YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE CAN BE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IN THIS BIZ --

I'LL GO FIND MY OWN SHOTS... I'D RATHER NOT BE HOOKED UP WITH HIM ANYMORE.

HMMPH.

TOUGH. THAT'S THE DEAL. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

Y'KNOW, I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, PARKER... WASN'T VERY LONG AGO YOU WERE THE NEW KID! SO, HE'S OBNOXIOUS, A LITTLE IRRITATING... HE'LL CALM DOWN...

...BESIDES, HE CAN DO THE JOB! THE KID'S ALREADY A GREAT REPORTER! HE TURNED IN A TERRIFIC PIECE --

HEY THERE, PARTNER! HI, Mr. JAMESON -- HOW'DJA LIKE MY --

-- STORY..?

IT WAS *OKAY*, WALTERS --

HOOOO

-- NEEDED SOME *WORK*.

Oh.

HEY!

DON'T.

BUT YOU JUST GOT DONE *SAYING..!* WOULD IT *KILL YOU* TO TELL HIM THAT IT WAS *GOOD?* *WHY* DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE PEOPLE *FEEL* --

-- *SPECIAL REPORT... WE'RE HERE IN* ***CENTRAL PARK,*** *WHERE POLICE HAVE* ***CORDONED OFF*** *A SECTION OF THE PARK DUE TO THE* ***RAMPAGING*** *OF A LARGE...* ***GELATINOUS CREATURE!***

WHILE NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ***IDENTIFY*** *THE CREATURE, AUTHORITIES SAY THAT IT* ***HAS*** *BEEN CALLING FOR* ***SPIDER-MAN...***

OMIGOSH! THAT DESCRIPTION SOUNDS LIKE ***DAVID KALEN*** -- ***D.K.!*** -- HOW'D HE GET TO THE PARK?! AND --

OKAY, ***JONAH*** -- IF ***THAT'S*** THE WAY YOU WANT TO ***PLAY IT...*** I'LL ***COVER*** THIS ONE...

?

...AND I'M TAKING MY ***PARTNER*** WITH ME!

AND SHORTLY--

DUDE, THIS IS SO ***PHAT!***

THERE IS, LIKE, ***TOTAL MADNESS*** GOIN' ON HERE! A ***CREATURE,*** DUDE! HAVE YOU EVER ***SEEN ONE*** BEFORE?

Uh...NO, BILLY.

HEY, ***PETE***... D'YA THINK SPIDER-MAN'LL ***SHOW?!*** --

-- I MEAN, ***THAT'S*** WHO THE MONSTER WAS ***YELLING FOR...!***

Um, PROBABLY ***NOT***... I MEAN, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT SPIDEY WAS ***WATCHING TV..?***

HE ***MUST*** HAVE A JOB! IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS SITTIN' AROUND THE ***SPIDER-CAVE*** WATCHING ***ROSIE*** AND WAITING FOR SOMEBODY TO LIGHT UP THE ***SPIDER-SIGNAL...!***

I'D BET YOU'RE ***NOT*** GONNA SEE HIM.

OKAY... I'LL BETCHA ***FIVE BUCKS!***

...

...YOU'RE ON...

SNAP US SOME *SWEET SHOTS*, PETE -- I'LL *HANG* HERE AND GET THE *STORY!*

WHOA! THAT ENDS ***THAT*** PROBLEM. I WAS AFRAID BILLY WAS GOING TO TRY TO ***FOLLOW ME*** LIKE LAST TIME...

HI, OFFICER. BILLY WALTERS, *DAILY B* --

-- WHOA!

WHERE IS HE?!

WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN?!

IT'S KINDA FUNNY THAT THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WOULD BE:

"IN A TREE."

IT'S *OKAY!* I'M *HERE!* I *MADE IT!*...

...ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST SITTING AROUND THE ***SPIDERCAVE***, WATCHING ***ROSIE***...

HEY!

HAFTA REMEMBER TO BE ***DELICATE*** WITH KALEN...

...HE'S ***PRETTY EDGY!*** THE WRONG WORD COULD SET HIM OFF ***BIG TIME!***

HEY, DAVID -- Y'KNOW, IF YOU WANTED TO HAVE A ***PICNIC*** IN THE ***PARK***, YOU SHOULD'A JUST ***CALLED***...

I'M ***HERE, THOUGH,*** DAVID... ***WHATEVER*** YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. WHATEVER YOU'RE ***FEELING...*** I'M SURE WE CAN GET SOME ***HELP*** --

-- JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO...

NO --

-- ***DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!***

SKRASCH

OKAY... ***OKAY...*** I CAN ***DO*** THAT..!

I... I'M ***DYING... DECAYING*** MYSELF ***FROM INSIDE..!*** DON'T TRY TO ***TALK ME OUT OF IT*** -- IT'S ***TOO LATE...***

...IT'S WHAT ***I WANT...*** I JUST WANTED TO... ***THANK YOU...*** ONE LAST TIME...

...FOR TRYING TO *HELP* ME...

HSSSSS

NO! DAVID. WAIT! WE --

...FOR *BELIEVING IN ME*...

HSSSSS

HSSSSS

-- *GONE!* JUST *DECOMPOSED* HIMSELF ON THE SPOT! NOTHING LEFT BUT A *PUD* -- Eh?!

SPIDER-SENSE GOING *CRAZY! BEHIND ME* --

TAWAK

-- THE *VULTURE!*

-- UNGH!

SPLORCH

YOU BEAT ME BEFORE BECAUSE WE WERE IN ***CLOSE QUARTERS,*** SPIDER-MAN -- BUT ***OUT HERE*** I HAVE ***ROOM*** TO ***SPREAD MY*** --

-- ***GAAAHH!*** WHAT ***IS*** THIS ***SLUDGE?!***

FWIP

TWIP

FWIP

TWIP

WHAT -- WHAT ***IS*** THIS?!

KALEN! HE MUST STILL BE --

-- NO! DAVID, NO! STOP IT!

FWIP

FWIP

DAVID!

THWIP

THWIP

GET IT OFF ME! GET IT OFF ME --

SHLOOPP

-- AHHH!

VULTURE!

TOOMS, CAN YOU HEAR ME?! LET ME SEE --

OMIGOD!

LATER...

MAN, I *CALLED* THAT ONE, DUDE -- SPIDEY WENT WEBBIN', LIKE, *RIGHT BY ME!*

PETE, I HOPE YOU GOT SOME *TASTY PICTURES..!* THAT WHOLE THING WAS JUST SO... *INCREDIBLE*, DON'T YOU THINK..?

Hmmm..?

YEAH... HERE'S YOUR *FIVE*...

PETE..?! HEY! PETER!.. YA WITH ME?!

WHAT'S *UP*, MAN?

Hmm? Oh, NOTHING...

--NO! NO!--

NYPD

--NO NONONONO NONO--

JUST THINKING THAT IT'S *REALLY STRANGE* SOMETIMES, THE WAY *THINGS WORK OUT..!*

THE DAILY BUGLE

VULTURE OLD AGAIN!

THE END

(BUT NOT REALLY...)

PROLOGUE:

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IT HAS DRIFTED ABOUT OUR SOLAR SYSTEM... LISTLESSLY... AIMLESSLY...

...CONSTANTLY MONITORED BY THE LIKES OF BOTH NASA AND S.H.I.E.L.D., IT NOW SKIRTS THE UPPER REACHES OF OUR ATMOSPHERE, WHERE THE INFLUENCE OF THE EARTH'S GRAVITY --

-- IS FELT AS BUT THE GENTLEST OF TUGS.

THE SIZE OF SEVERAL CITIES, ONCE THIS SENTIENT ASTEROID WAS A MAN --

-- A MUTANT --

-- A GOD..!

THE LIVING PHARAOH! -- THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE VERY GODS OF ANCIENT EGYPT! CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THE ENERGIES OF THE STARS. IT GREW! -- BOTH IN SIZE --

-- AND, MAD WITH POWER!

BENT ON RETURNING THE PLANET TO THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS, HE WAS BARELY DEFEATED IN A HARD-WON BATTLE WITH A HANDFUL OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND EXILED TO SPACE!

IN THE CLASSIC "REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH" GRAPHIC NOVEL – Readin' Ralf.

IT IS BOTH ITS PRISON...

...AND FREEDOM...

...PUNISHMENT...

...AND ULTIMATE REWARD!...

...IT IS JUST, FOR WHERE DOES A GOD TRULY BELONG BUT IN THE HEAVENS?...

...ENVELOPED IN A SEA OF TRANQUILITY...

...AND...

...PIECE...

..?

END PROLOGUE

FLASHBACK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MINUS 1 JULY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

YOUNG PETER PARKER™ AND HIS UNCLE BEN MENACED BY THE MONSTERS KNOWN AS...

THE THING THAT LIVES!™

AND... GIGANTUS!™

RING & CASE LIQUID!

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

DOOOOOOOOOO
DOOOOOOOOOO

ALL RIGHT, YOUNG MAN -- TIME FOR BED...

AWW... CAN'T I STAY UP AND WATCH THE NEXT SHOW..?

SORRY KID, I JUST **PRE-EMPTED** THE NEXT SHOW! FIGURED YOU'D PREFER **STAN "THE MAN" LEE!**

I'VE GOT A MONSTER OF A TALE THAT --

I DON'T THINK SO, LAD --

HOLD IT, LITTLE FELLA! DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

I GUESS HE DIDN'T HEAR M--

CLICK

WE'LL BE GETTING UP ***PRETTY EARLY*** FOR OUR ***FISHING TRIP,*** AND YOU ***KNOW*** HOW HARD IT IS FOR YOU TO ***WAKE*** UP IN THE MORNING...

WHY, A WHOLE ***ROOMFUL OF ALARM CLOCKS*** COULDN'T GET ***YOU*** OUT OF BED!

AW, ***UNCLE BEN...***

PLEASANT DREAMS, ***PETER!***

AND, A SHORT WHILE LATER --

...FIN FANG FOOM SHALL FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, IF NEED BE, TO SLAY YOU!

ALBERT S·T·E·I·N

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

I OFFER YOU NO MERCY -- NO PITY -- NOTHING BUT DOOM!

WOW! ...THOSE GUYS IN THE COMICS THAT FIGHT THE MONSTERS ARE SO SMART... THEY A'WAYS FIN' A WAY...

...T'BEAT'EM..!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

...WISH... YAWN ...WISH I COULD BE LIKE...

...THAT...

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

FAP

SHEEESH! I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER DOZE OFF!

NOW IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, O TRUE BELIEVER!

TODAY'S TENDER LITTLE TALE WILL TAKE YOU ON A TERRIFYING TOBOGGAN-RIDE INTO YESTERDAY --

-- WHERE YOU'LL SEE ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHEROES --

-- AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE PRE-POWERED PETER PARKER IN HERE THERE BE MONSTERS!

SPIDER-MAN IS *NOW* -- BUT THIS IS *THEN!*

THIS IS THE PERILOUS *PAST*, WHEN SPIDEY WAS -- A BOY!

TODD DEZAGO ...*WRITER*

MIKE WIERINGO & RICH CASE ...*PICTURES*

RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT/KS ...*LETTERS*

GREGORY WRIGHT ...*COLORS*

RALPH MACCHIO ...*MONSTER MAKER*

BOB HARRAS ...*MONSTER SLAYER*

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BRIGHT AND EARLY THE NEXT MORNING --

ALBERT
·N·S·T·E·I·N·

OBOY! I CAN'T WAIT! A *WHOLE DAY* OF NOTHIN' BUT *RELAXIN'* AND *FISHIN'* WITH *UNCLE BEN!*

AND I'LL BET I'LL CATCH THE *BIGGEST FISH...*

I'M ALL READY, UNCLE BEN... *LET'S GO!* I'LL --

YOU SIT RIGHT DOWN, YOUNG MAN. YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE UNTIL WE GET SOME *BREAKFAST* IN YOU!

I'VE MADE YOUR FAVORITE *WHEATCAKES!*

I SEE YOU'RE TAKING THOSE DREADFUL COMIC BOOKS WITH YOU..! REALLY, PETER -- I WISH YOU WOULD TAKE ALONG A REAL BOOK, WITH A GOOD STORY... SOMETHING *SUBSTANTIAL* --

-- *THOSE* THINGS ARE JUST *SENSATIONAL* TALES... OF *MONSTERS* AND *SPACE CREATURES..!*

GEE, AUNT MAY... BUT THEY *ARE* GOOD STORIES..! AND THEY'RE *FULL* OF TRUE *SCIENTIFIC FACTS*, AND... THEY USE A LOT OF THE *VOCABULARY WORDS* THAT THEY'RE GIVING US IN SCHOOL!

WELL, I DON'T *LIKE* THEM. THE PRINT IS SO SMALL YOU'LL RUIN YOUR EYES... AND SUCH *VIOLENCE*...

SHORTLY...

YOU BOYS BE *CAREFUL!*

WE WILL, AUNT MAY! SEE YA *LATER!*

DON'T MIND YOUR *AUNT MAY, LAD*... SHE CAN'T HELP BUT BE *OVERPROTECTIVE* SOMETIMES...

TELL ME, *PETER*, DO MANY OF YOUR *FRIENDS* AT SCHOOL READ COMIC BOOKS, TOO..?

Um, MY...

...FRIENDS..?!

...YEAH...

...YEAH, *THEY DO*...

BOY, IT MUST BE *GREAT FUN* TO SIT AROUND AND TALK ABOUT THEM *TOGETHER*... IT'S *TOO BAD* THEY WERE ALL SO *BUSY* WHEN YOU INVITED THEM TO *COME FISHING* WITH US...

...OH... YEAH...

HEY! YOU KNOW WHAT I *DON'T KNOW..?* OUT OF ALL THE FRIENDS YOU HAVE AT SCHOOL, WHICH ONE IS YOUR *FAVORITE*...

...WHO'S YOUR *BEST* FRIEND..?

AW, YOU KNOW *YOU ARE*, UNCLE BEN! *YOU'RE* MY BEST *FRIEND!*

OH, *SURE*... SURE...

STILL, IT *WOULD* HAVE BEEN *NICE* IF ONE OF YOUR *FRIENDS* COULD'VE COME ALONG.

...YEAH.

HI, GANG. THIS IS OL' STAN AGAIN. I FIGURE I'D BETTER MAKE LIKE A NARRATOR BEFORE YOU FORGET ME!

SO HERE GOES -- "LATER, ON A SECLUDED LAKE SOMEWHERE IN WESTCHESTER..."

"...WHERE A LAZY SUMMER MORNING..." NUTS! THIS IS ***BORE CITY!*** LET'S SPEED THINGS UP, OKAY?

"WE PROMISED YOU MONSTERS, RIGHT?

"WELL, STRAP YOURSELVES IN, BUNKY, CAUSE *HERE* THEY COME!"

UNCLE BEN! WE GOT ONE! WE GOT ONE! AND LOOK AT THE WAY IT'S TAKING *THE LINE!* IT *MUST BE* --

-- BIG..?!

BLIP BLUB

RAAAAH

AAAAAH!

SKOOOSH

RRRR

I DON'T *KNOW*, PETEY --

SPLOOSH

UNCLE BEN! WHAT-- WHAT IS THAT?!

WUMP WUMP WUMP

THUMP

RRRR

-- JUST RUN, LAD --

-- RUN!

KRAK

ERRT

OH MY!

UNCLE BEN... IT'S... IT'S...

I AM GROOT! MONARCH OF PLANET X! SUBMIT TO ME! IT IS FUTILE FOR YOU TO RESIST!

...IT'S GONNA GET US!

C'MON, UNCLE BEN -- RUN!

UNCLE BEN CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOR MUCH LONGER... HAFTA GET HIM SOMEPLACE SAFE... SOMEPLACE HE CAN CATCH HIS BREATH!

GROOT..?! WHY DOES THIS ALL SEEM SO FAMILIAR?!

OH NO! A ROCK WALL! WE'RE TRAPPED!

FOOLISH MORTALS! NOW YOU WILL PAY THE PRICE --

-- FOR YOUR DEFIANCE!

-- EH?!

THUD THUD

WAM

KRRAKT

MY GOD! HE'S BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES! SMASHED TO SPLINTERS!

...VANDOOM..!

AAAARK

...IT'S THE VANDOOM CREATURE! FROM MY COMIC BOOKS!

NOW I KNOW WHY THIS ALL SEEMS SO FAMILIAR!

GIGANTUS, THE MONSTER THAT WALKED LIKE A MAN! GROOT, THE MONSTER FROM PLANET X! THE VANDOOM CREATURE! THEY'RE ALL FROM STORIES IN MY COMICS..!

BUT, HOW..?!

QUICKLY, PETER... THIS WAY! THE BIG BRUTE HASNT SEEN US..!

KEEP VERY STILL, SON -- DON'T MOVE OR MAKE ANY NOISE... IF WE CAN JUST HIDE HERE TILL THAT MONSTER GOES AWAY...

UNCLE BEN'S REALLY WINDED..! PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD! HE'S WORRIED MORE ABOUT MY SAFETY THAN HIS OWN HEALTH...

...BUT HE NEEDS TO REST! IF I COULD JUST REMEMBER HOW THESE MONSTERS WERE DEFEATED IN THE COMIC BOOKS, MAYBE I COULD --

SNFF

SNRF

DON'T... MOVE... A MUSCLE! I THINK HE'S CAUGHT OUR SCENT BUT HE HASN'T SPOTTED US Y--

KRRAK!

...NO!

AK?

?

HE SEES US! GO! PETER -- RUN!

UNCLE BEN, THIS -- THIS IS LIKE A BAD DREAM! THESE MONSTERS, THEY'RE THE SAME AS THE ONES IN... MY COMIC BOOKS!

MAYBE ﹥HUFF PUFF﹤ MAYBE YOUR AUNT IS RIGHT, LAD... ﹥HUFF﹤

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T ﹥HUFF﹤ BE READING THOSE THINGS...

Oh NO! GIGANTUS! WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED!

ARRRR

SWIPE

DUCK!

ROOR

GROOOL

UP HERE, UNCLE BEN..! WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED..!

THERE! A CAVE!

WE CAN HIDE HERE... CATCH OUR BREATH...

HUFF PUFF

ARE YOU OKAY..?

I'M HUFF FINE, LAD...

BE CAREFUL THROUGH HERE -- SOME OF THESE ROCKS ARE --

OH, NO!

...WHAT?

SPK

KRKL

KRK

IT'S *THE BLIP!* AN *ENERGY-BEING* FROM *ANOTHER DIMENSION!*

BUT, HE'S *SUPPOSED* TO BE FRIENDLY... *PEACEFUL*... WHY IS HE *ATTACKING US?!*

LET'S NOT *STAY* TO *FIND OUT* -- *RUN!*

GRRR!

GRUNT

AAAK!

OH, *NO!* THE *BATTLING BEASTS* ARE *BLOCKING THE WAY AHEAD* OF US...

AND THE BLIP IS *CLOSING IN* ON US FROM *BEHIND!* WE'RE *DOOMED!*

...UNLESS...

C'MON, PETER, THINK -- *THINK!*

THAT'S IT! THE *MONEL* LINE!

THE HEAVY *FISHING LINE* UNCLE BEN USES TO *TRAWL* FOR THE *LAKE TROUT* DOWN NEAR THE *BOTTOM!* IT'S *METAL...*

MONEL POLE AND LINE

...AND HIGHLY CONDUCTIVE..!

NOW, IF I CAN JUST CAST THIS OUT FAR ENOUGH...

DID IT! NOW COMES THE HARD PART...

ROO!

AK!

CRASH

SPLOSH

GOTTA HURRY!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TOO GOOD AT THIS IN SCHOOL...

SHKLAK

THANK YOU.

ZAT

KRKL

UNCLE BEN! GET DOWN!

KRSS

AND *INSTANTLY*, THE TWO *BEHEMOTHS* BEGIN TO *WRITHE* AND *DANCE*, *SPASMING* ABOUT AS THE WATERS OF THE TINY COVE START TO *SIZZLE* --

-- *CRACKLING* WITH THE *SUDDEN INFUSION* OF THE *BILLIONS OF JIGOWATTS* THAT MAKE UP THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY BEING -- *BLIP!*

RAAAH!

GZATT

ZAKT

KRKL

AKAKAKAKAKAKAK

SHXX

SSSZL

KRKL

SZZZZ

SSNZ

WITHIN *MOMENTS*, THE CREATURE IS *GONE*, ITS LIFE-ENERGIES *SPENT* -- *DRAINED AWAY* INTO THE *SURROUNDING WATERS...!*

THE OTHER TWO LIE NEARBY, *STUNNED* -- *UNCONSCIOUS*...

FOR THE MOMENT, THERE IS CALM --

WELL, I GUESS WE *SHOWED THEM*, HUH, UNCLE BEN?

-- FOR THE *MOMENT*...

...UNCLE BEN..?!

WHIPP

OHH!

GO, PETER -- SAVE YOURSELF!

UNCLE BEN!

YOU ARE MINE, HUMAN!

NO! UNCLE BEN! NO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME! -- YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME --

-- TOO!

PETER?! MY WORD, WHAT IS IT, DEAR..?

UNCLE BEN?! YOU'RE OKAY..?! BUT THE MONSTERS...

OH, MONSTERS, IS IT?

IT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE HORRIBLE ***FUNNY BOOKS!*** TAKE THEM ***OUT OF HERE***, BEN! PUT THEM IN THE ***GARBAGE!*** WE DON'T NEED THOSE KIND OF ***NIGHTMARES*** AROUND HERE!

SORRY, LAD...

BUT... BUT...

MOMENTS LATER --

...***COULDN'T*** JUST THROW THEM OUT -- THEY MEAN ***A LOT*** TO PETER, AND ***I*** HAD COMIC BOOKS OF MY OWN WHEN ***I*** WAS A BOY...

I'LL GIVE THEM BACK TO HIM WHEN HE'S A LITTLE ***OLDER***... AND ***MAY'S*** A LITTLE ***CALMER***...

...DON'T WANT THE BOY HAVING ANY MORE ***NIGHTMARES***...

THIS END UP

EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!

THIS ENTIRE EDIFICE FAIRLY *OOZES* WITH THE *DREAM ENERGY* I WAS ABLE TO *GENERATE* FROM THIS *YOUNG BOY*... THIS *PETER PARKER!*

HIS *WILL* IS SO *STRONG*... HIS IMAGINATION SO *VIVID*...

BEKINS

KRASHAM

...*HE*, LIKE SO MANY BOYS HIS AGE, IS THE *PERFECT VESSEL* FROM WHICH TO DISTILL SUCH A *POTENT, POTENT* BREW!

WHY, I AM ALL BUT *INTOXICATED* WITH THE *DREAM ENERGIES* I HAVE ALREADY *ABSORBED!* I CAN *FEEL* THE *POWER GROWING WITHIN ME! YES...*

...I WILL HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS *PETER PARKER...*

...FOR ONLY I, *NIGHTMARE*, HAVE THE POWER TO *TWIST* AND *MANIPULATE* HIS *VERY DREAMS!* TO *DRINK* IN THE *POWER* RELEASED BY HIS *SUBCONSCIOUS ADVENTURES!* TO *PLUCK* AND *CLAW* AT HIS *INNERMOST FEA* --

OH, NIGHTY..?

THWUNG

UNGHH!

...HOW'Z ABOUT YOU LOG A LITTLE DREAM TIME *YOURSELF..?!*

WELL, *WADDAYA* KNOW?! IT'S *NONE* OTHER THAN THAT NABOB OF *NASTINESS* -- THE DEMON OF THE DIABOLICAL *DREAM DIMENSION!*

...LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE NOXIOUS, NAFARIOUS, *NIGHTMARE!*

AND THAT WRAPS IT UP, O KEEPER OF THE FLAME! A TENDER TALE OF YESTERYEAR, OF A VALIANT YOUNG BOY CONFRONTING HIS HOPES AND DREAMS...

"...HIS DOUBTS AND FEARS...

...HIS POWER AND RESPONSIBIL --

...NAH! LET'S SAVE THAT FOR LATER..!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, EFFENDI --

-- I'VE GOT A LITTLE LOOSE END I'VE GOT TO TIE UP..!

WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK

EXCELSIOR!

MARVEL COMICS

SEP
#19

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

DEZAGO
CASE

RETURN OF THE LIVING PHARAOH!

THE CANYONLANDS OF SOUTHERN UTAH --

AN AREA OVERRUN BY EVERYONE FROM HIKERS TO BIKERS --

-- EVEN AT NIGHT!

C'MON, YOU WUSSIES!...

...CATCH UP!

ATCH UP! ATCH UP! ATCH UP!

LAME-O'S.

STILL...THE *QUIET'S* NICE. I *WISH* I COULD JUST *WRAP* MYSELF --

WHAT TH--?!

WHOA!

SHHHHH

Oh, MAN -- THIS IS SO WEEKLY WORLD NEWS../ I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! A UFO!...

...I SAW A FREAKIN' U --

SHOOM

-- F?!

OOOOOOH

OW OW OW

OOOHHH...

WELL, *THAT* BIKE'S *TOTALLED!* HOW'M I --

-- *HEY!?* THAT THING'S REALLY *BRIGHT*... WHAT'S --

-- WHAT'S *IN* THERE?!

OMIGOD! WHAT -- *WHAT IS THIS?!*

FWASH

Huh?

NO!

AKASHA..?!

AKASHA, YOU *OKAY?*

YO, DUDE -- I THINK SHE'S *DONE!*

THE RETURN

QUEENS, NY --

THE Stan Lee PRESENTS SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

Ah, THE LIFE OF A ***MARRIED SUPERHERO..!*** I HEAD OUT FOR AN EVENING OF ACTIVITIES OF A ***SPIDER-MANLY*** NATURE...

...AND ***MARY JANE*** GIVES ME A ***LIST*** OF ***STUFF*** TO ***PICK UP ON THE WAY HOME!***

THEN, OF COURSE, AFTER A ***LONG BORING NIGHT*** OF ***NO*** ACTION, ***WHEN*** DO I FIND ***TROUBLE..?***

WHEN I GOT AN ***ARMFUL*** OF ***GROCERIES!***

I TELL YA, SPIDEY -- OF ALL THE ***PETER PARKERS*** IN THE WORLD, YOU'RE THE PETER ***PARKERIEST!***

PLEASE, HERE'S MY ***PURSE,*** ***TAKE*** THE MONEY...

S'NOT THE MONEY WE'RE ***LOOKIN' FOR*** CHICA...

RICH CASE
STORY, PENCILS, INKS
TODD DEZAGO SCRIPT

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KS LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

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NO JUS' STAY *QUIET*... DON'T DO NOTHIN' *STUPID*. WE AIN'T GONNA *HURTCHA*...

...*MUCH*.

THWIP

Huh?!

THWAP

EXCUSE ME, I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND *CONDESCENDING* OR ANYTHING... BUT DID YOU JUST TELL HER NOT TO DO ANYTHING *STUPID*..?!

AND YOU'RE LIKE, *WHAT*... A *ROLE MODEL*...?!

Huh?

Bam!

SPIDER-MAN!

FORGET *IT*, HOMES -- *YOU* DON' SCARE --

?

BANANA. RIGHT, I KNEW THAT.

HORUS

UNGH!

POW

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, LOSER --

-- YOU *MOVE* AN' I *CUT* THIS B --

GAK!

SSHHK

AAK! AAK!

SPIDER-*SENSE* WARNING ME OF DANGER?! Oh, *GREAT*.

AAAH! MY EYES! I *CAN'T* SEE! I'M --

WOW! IT WORKED!

POW

HORUS

IT DOESN'T GET ANY *EASIER* THAN *THAT..!*

WELL, Um... *THANKS*, I MEAN, *REALLY!* I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I WOULD'VE DONE IF *YOU* HADN'T *COME ALONG!*

ACTUALLY, YOU SEEMED TO HANDLE THAT *PEPPER* SPRAY PRETTY WELL! THAT STUFF REALLY *WORKS!*

The EYE of HORUS

YEAH. I GUESS *SO...*

...AS LONG AS YOU GET THEM *IN THE EYE!*

SO, I HAD THIS DREAM --

-- IN IT I WAS A **GUY** AND I'D COME FROM A LONG LINE OF **PHARAOHS'** CUZ I WAS LIKE, Y'KNOW... **EGYPTIAN..!**

I WAS THE **RULER** OF ALL OF EGYPT AND I WALKED AROUND WITH MY SCEPTRE AND, WELL...**I RULED!**

I LIVED A **FULL LIFE** IN THE SPACE OF THIS DREAM, AND THEN I **DIED OR SOMETHING,** AND THEN I LIVED A **NEW LIFE** AGAIN...

...SIMILAR, BUT LIKE, **WAY** DIFFERENT.

I WAS MUCH MORE **POWERFUL** THAN BEFORE, A CONDUIT, CHANNELING THE **POWER** OF THE **HEAVENS,** DESTINED TO **RISE UP** AND **RULE ONCE MORE!**

SOME **JERKS** DIDN'T GO FOR **ME** BEING **KING,** SO WE **FOUGHT** --

-- AND **FOUGHT** --

I WAS LIKE, ABSORBING **MASSIVE AMOUNTS** OF **COSMIC ENERGY,** AND GREW TO **TOTALLY LEVIATHAN PROPORTIONS!** WHICH WAS COOL...

...WHILE I WAS FIGHTING ALL THESE STUPID LITTLE **PEABOS,** I LIKE, **TRASHED** THIS **ENTIRE CITY** AND GOT **THROWN INTO SPACE...**

...BUT IT WAS OKAY, I KINDA **LIKED** IT THERE...

...AND THEN I WOKE UP...

...EXCEPT...

...I DIDN'T WAKE UP.

I'M SORRY, Ms. MARTINEZ, I WISH I COULD TELL YOU MORE...

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

A SIMPLE FALL LIKE THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED THESE KIND OF BRAIN ANOMALIES -- BUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S READINGS ARE OFF THE CHARTS!

OUR ONLY HOPE IN A CASE OF CATATONIA THIS SEVERE, IS THAT AKASHA HERSELF IS STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL HERSELF OUT!

IF ANYTHING, DOCTOR, 'KASHA'S ALWAYS BEEN A FIGHTER!

...AND SO SHE'D GOTTEN AHEAD OF US 'CUZ, Uh LIKE, I THINK SEAN WAS HAVIN' TROUBLE WITH HIS BIKE...

...AN' WE WERE JUST GETTIN READY TO COME UP FROM BEHIND AND DUST HER OFF, WHEN --

Oh, IN YER DREAMS, PAULY --

AKASHA!?

-- YOU TWO COULDN'T CATCH ME IF I WERE GLUED TO YOUR HANDS!

'KASHA, YOU'RE BACK!

YEAH, MOM --

-- FINALLY.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART --

THE EYE OF HORUS

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART NORTH GALLERIES

The Glory of Byzantium

I CAN'T BELIEVE *JONAH* DID THIS...

I MEAN, I REALIZE THAT HE'S NEARLY OUT OF HIS *MIND* WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT THE *BUGLE* LATELY, BUT I'M AN *ACTION PHOTO-GRAPHER* --

-- I'M *NOT* THE GUY TO SEND TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE NEW *EGYPTIAN EXPOSITION* FOR THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE...

...THIS... ROTS..!

Oh, AND IS SPENDING SOME LONG-OVERDUE *QUALITY TIME* WITH YOUR *LOVELY* AND *ADORING WIFE* GOING TO BE SO *AWFUL..?*

NO!... I DIDN'T *MEAN*... Ah, *YOU* KNOW WHAT I MEANT.

SURE I DO. I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU *SWEAT.*

...AND AFTER THE ACCIDENT, SHE WAS JUST LIKE, *TOO MUCH* WITH THE *HOVERING,* YOU KNOW HOW MOM GETS WHEN SHE'S *"NURTURING"*...

...SO I FIGURED IT WAS A *GOOD TIME* TO COME TO SEE MY *DAD* IN THE BIG A.

NOT TO MENTION THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN LIKE, OVER A YEAR..!

OKAY, OKAY -- ENOUGH *GUILT* FOR TODAY...

YOU *KNOW* HOW HAPPY I AM THAT YOU'RE *HERE,* 'KASHA, AND HOW NICE IT IS TO BE ABLE TO SPEND SOME *QUALITY TIME* WITH YOU HERE AT THE MUSEUM.

Um, *NO OFFENSE,* DAD...

...BUT, LIKE, I SEE STUFF LIKE THIS *24/7* BACK AT ART SCHOOL...

HOWEVER...

...THIS STUFF LIKE, *TOTALLY TALKS TO ME!*

I ... I CAN *READ* THESE *HIEROGLYPHS!* THEY TELL THE *STORY* OF THE *BIRTH* OF THE *FIRST PHARAOH! BUT HOW...*

...HOW AM I DOING THIS!? WH --

-- *WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME!?*

YES...

...I UNDERSTAND NOW. I CAN *FEEL* IT.

IT IS *HERE...*

...THE *STAFF* OF *HORUS!* NOW --

-- I SHALL BE *EMPOWERED...* I SHALL BE *RETURNED...*

...I SHALL BE AWAKENED!

THERE YOU GO, MJ!

Y'KNOW HOW THEY'RE ALWAYS SAYING THAT THE ***ANCIENT EGYPTIANS*** WERE VISITED BY THE ***GODS***...

...AND THAT THOSE GODS COULD'VE ***REALLY*** BEEN ***ALIENS***..?

WELL, HERE'S YOUR PROOF..!

THESE GUYS DON'T HAVE ***NOSES!***

YOU'D BETTER ***WATCH*** WHAT YOU ***SAY,*** PETER -- YOU'LL ***ANGER*** THE ***GODS!***

I'VE THROWN DOWN WITH A FEW ***ANGRY GODS*** IN MY TIME, MARY JANE, AND ***LET ME TELL YOU,*** THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF --

SFINK

Nikon

PETER! I ***TOLD*** YOU TO ***STOP MAKING FUN*** OF THE ***PHAROAHS!***

BUT ***I*** DIDN'T --

Uh Oh!

RRRUMBLE

--MARY JANE!

THOOM

-- MOVE!

HONEY -- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

Oh, YEAH. I'M JUST FINE...

HELP

...BUT I DON'T THINK THEY ARE!

THQUAKE!

LOOK OUT

IT'S--

RUN!

RRUMBLE

AHHH!

HELP ME!

LOIS!

HELP!

YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING EARLIER ABOUT "QUALITY TIME"..?

GO DO WHAT YOU DO, TIGER...

AND, MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A QUICK CHANGE IN A NEARBY SARCOPHAGI --

LOOKS LIKE *BIG TROUBLE'S* BREWIN' IN THE *TEMPLE* OF *DENDUR* --!

SPIDER-MAN..!

SHUM SHUUM SHUUUM

AKASHA! MY-MY DAUGHTER'S IN THERE! SHE-*SHE*...

DON'T *WORRY,* SIR --

-- *I'LL* GET HER *OUT OF THERE!* I MEAN, *THAT'S* WHAT US FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *SPIDER-MAN'S* DO...

...I *HOPE!*

Um... EXCUSE ME...

...BUT YOU'RE *REALLY* NOT SUPPOSED TO BE *HANDLING* THE *EXHIBIT PIECES..!*

SHUM SHUUM SHUUUM

SHUM SHUUM SHUUUM

I... CAN'T HOLD...

THE ENERGY FROM THE... STAFF...

...TEARING AT ME... IT'S... SUFFUSING...

ME WITH... SUCH... POWERRR...

I CAN'T...

...I AM!

OMIGOD! THE HEAD OF THAT STAFF! THE EYE OF HORUS..!

...IT'S THE SAME SYMBOL THAT WAS WORN BY...

AKASHA!

...THE LIVING PHARAOH..!

SHUUUM

I AM... AWAKENED!

I AM THE POWER! I AM THE LIVING VESSEL OF THE GODS OF EGYPT! I AM THE PEOPLE! I AM POWER!

I AM THE LIVING PHARAOH!

SHUM

SHUUM

SHUUM

AKASHA, BABY... WHAT *IS THIS..? WHAT'S GOING ON..?!*

EASY THERE, SNACKY -- DON'T GET *TOO* --

I AM *NOT* THIS *AKASHA!* I AM *MORE THAN HER!*

WAK

AND *YOU..!* I *KNOW* OF YOU! YOU ARE AN *INTERFERING BEETLE,* A *BOTHERSOME BUG...*

...AND I WILL HAVE *NO MORE OF YOU, SCARAB-MAN!*

SHUUM SHUUM

ACTUALLY --

-- IT'S --

-- SPIDER-MAN. BUT WHY BE SO ***FORMAL..?*** I'LL CALL YOU ***AKASHA*** AND YOU CAN CALL ***ME*** --

I SHALL CALL YOU ***DEAD!***

KRAK

I AM THE ***LIVING EMBODIMENT*** OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS AND ***YOU*** SHALL ***FALL BEFORE ME!***

RIGHT, RIGHT, I FORGOT.

MAN, THAT ***SMARTS...*** SHE CAUGHT ME RIGHT ON THE ***JAW..!***

GOOD. NOW THAT MJ'S GOTTEN THAT ***MAN*** OUTTA HERE...

SINCE THAT ***STAFF*** SEEMS TO BE THE ***SOURCE*** OF ALL THIS ***TROUBLE...***

THWIP

..LET'S SEE *WHAT HAPPENS* WHEN I *SNAG* --

-- *OOPS!*

THWAP

YOU DARE --!?

IT IS BUT *FOLLY* FOR YOU TO *IMAGINE* THAT I WOULD *RELINQUISH* MY STAFF SO *EASILY... COME --!*

YIKES! SHE *YANKED* ME *RIGHT TO HER..!*

SHUM

-- I WILL *CRUSH YOU* AS I WOULD YOUR *SCUTTLING NAMESAKE!*

OKAY, SPIDEY -- THINK..!

HOW DID *THOR* AND I TAKE THIS *BOZACK* DOWN THE *LAST TIME?*

LET'S SEE... THE LIVING PHARAOH GOT THIS POWER FROM THE *COSMIC RAYS* THAT CONSTANTLY *BUFFET THE PLANET...*

SHRAKK

SO IF I CAN GET HER LOCKED INTO THIS HANDY VAULT OVER HERE...

...I MAY BUY MYSELF SOME TIME AND FIGURE A SOLUTION.

NOW, IF SHE CAN JUST ***FOLLOW*** ME ***IN HERE...***

HEY, AKASHA...

I AM ***NOT AKASHA!***

OKAY, SHE'S ***IN...***

...***I'M OUT...***

...AND ***HOPEFULLY*** THIS MUSEUM VAULT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTAIN HER UNTIL SHE ***EXPENDS*** ALL THAT ***RESIDUAL COSMIC ENERGY*** SHE'S GOT IN HER!

SLAM

Oh, YEAH... NOW THAT SHE'S CUT OFF FROM HER ***ENERGY SOURCE,*** SHE ***SHOULD*** BE POWERLESS AND REVERTING BACK TO NORMAL ***ANY SECOND NOW...***

BAM BAM BAM

KBOOM

PERHAPS YOU WEREN'T *LISTENING*...

I AM THE *LIVING INCARNATION* OF THE *GODS* OF *EGYPT*, AS *ANCIENT* AS THE *SANDS* OF *TIME!* --

I AM THE *LIVING PHARAOH!* AND *YOU*...

...YOU *ANNOY ME!*

Uh-Oh!

OH, YOU KNOW IT'S ... 2B CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

OCT #20

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DEZAGO CASE

WHOEVER POSSESSES THE STAFF OF HORUS

atomic

CAN DESTROY THE WORLD!

STAN LEE PRESENTS

AKASHA TRIUMPHANT

...I AM THE *LIVING INCARNATION* OF THE *GODS* OF *EGYPT*, AS *ANCIENT* AS THE *SANDS* OF *TIME!* -- NO LONGER AM I THIS CHILD, AKASHA --

-- I AM THE LIVING PHARAOH! AND YOU...

--YOU *ANNOY* *ME!*

Uh-Oh!

SHE LOOKS *MIFFED!* C'MON, SPIDEY... *THINK!* HOW DO I --

--HEY! DID SHE SAY "*SANDS*?!"

RICH CASE
PLOT, PENCILS, INKS
TODD DEZAGO
SCRIPT

RS&COMICRAFT/KS
LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORS
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
THE SPHINX

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...THEN SANDS *IT IS!*

HERE YA GO, GIRL-FRIEND!

SHUFF

AK!

INSOLENT FOOL! YOU THINK TO DISTRACT ME WITH SUCH A PALTRY *RU* --

-- Eh?!

ACTUALLY, I JUST DID!

RUN IF YOU WISH, SCUTTLE-BUG -- *YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME!* MY POWER IS BOTH *INFINITE* --

-- AND ALL-REACHING!

SHRAK

TOOOM

THIS CHILD'S BODY IS BUT A VESSEL FOR ME --

--A LIVING AVATAR CONTAINING THE PHARAOHS OF MY PEOPLE -- THE ***GODS!*** HORUS AND RA! ISIS AND OSIRIS! -- SELKET! ANUBIS! MEHERET! --

THEY ***EMPOWER*** AND ***GUIDE*** ME --

--"AND LEAD ME..." TO MY ***DESTINY!*** TO ***RULE THIS PLANET*** AND ***RESTORE*** TO IT THE ***GLORY OF THE EGYPTIAN EMPIRE!***

JEEZ -- THIS CHICK'S A FEW BLOCKS SHY OF A PYRAMID...

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? SHE'S TOO POWERFUL, AND MY LAST TRICK TO STOP HER DIDN'T --

-- Uh- Oh...

"I THINK SHE SEES *ME*...

"...SHE ***DOES..!***"

SKRRASSH

PE -- Er, Uh, SP-SPIDER-MAN!

Oh, MY... AKASHA..?

WHOA. C'MON. THWIP. THWIP...

THWIP

THWIP

THWAP

GOTCHA.

NOW I CAN --

BUG! --

UNGH!

-- NOW YOU SHALL DIE!

SHRAK

YOU SHALL *VEX* ME NO LONGER! I SEND YOU NOW ON YOUR *FINAL VOYAGE*... TO THE LAND BEYOND *LIFE*...

...THE *UNDERWORLD!*

WAIT!... NO!...

SPIDER-MAN! *GET UP!* YOU'RE...

...YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!

...Huh...

...M'RYJANE..?

Huh? WHAT AM I --

-- WHAT AM I *DOING?!*

SORRY. *NO WAY* AM I ABOUT WASTING *SPIDER-MAN,* DUDES..!

I AM *OUTTA* HE --

ZZRAAK

WAS THAT... MY DAUGHTER..?

AT THE VERY END THERE..? *YEAH.* I THINK *SO.*

MIDTOWN --

WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME? HOW'D I *GET HERE..?*

AND *WHAT* IS EVERYBODY STARING AT?!

PERHAPS THEY RECOGNIZE THEIR NEW MASTER..!

WOW. NOW *THAT* WAS A *WEIRD THOUGHT...*

RE

...Huh?

Oh, MY GODS! NO *WONDER* PEOPLE ARE GIVIN' ME THE *EYE...* OF HORUS...

I LOOK *RIDICULOUS!*

THEN *CHANGE* IT.

RENT

YEAH...

ZARAK

I HAVE THE *POWER*...

Tsunami's

Tsunamis

...TO SHOP IN THE *VILLAGE!*

YEAH! THIS IS MORE *LIKE IT!*

ESCAPED FROM A BROADWAY MUSICAL, *HAVE WE..?*

ULP! Er, M-M-MAY I H-*HELP YOU..?*

SHOULD I HAVE NEED OF YOUR *ASSISTANCE,* SERVANT --

-- YOU WILL *KNOW IT!*

Y-YES. V-VERY WELL THEN.

CHANGING ROOMS

NEAT!...

HE LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS *DEATH ITSELF..!*

AND SHORTLY...

YES!

YEAH..!

THESE GARMENTS ARE...

...SO PHAT!

Er, EX- *EXCUSE* ME, MISS...

...BUT YOU W-W-*WERE* INTENDING TO P-*PAY* FOR THOSE ITEMS BEFORE YOU L-*LEFT*, WEREN'T Y --

--- OOOH! *Oh NO!*

PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY... *"MESSAGE"* EARLIER --

-- *SLAVE!*

EXCELLENT!

THE PARKER HOME, FOREST HILLS, NY --

DON'T LET IT **BOTHER YOU,** PETER...

...I MEAN, I'M SURE THAT THIS HAPPENS TO **EVERY** SUPER HERO AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

BUT THIS HAS NEVER **HAPPENED** TO ME BEFORE, MARY JANE --

-- BACK WHEN THOR AND I BATTLED THE **ORIGINAL** LIVING PHARAOH, WE JUST CUT HIM OFF FROM THE **COSMIC RAYS,** AND THAT TOOK ALL OF THE **BAD** OUT OF HIS BUTT!

BUT WITH THIS GIRL, **AKASHA,** I CAN TELL THAT IT'S THE SAME POWER THAT'S, I DUNNO ...**POSSESSING HER,** I GUESS. BUT SHE'S GETTING IT FROM A **DIFFERENT SOURCE.** AND SHE'S SO **POWERFUL..!**

WAAAY BACK IN **MARVEL TEAM-UP** 69&70 – Ramses Ralf.

I JUST MESSED UP **ALL AROUND** ON THIS ONE...! I DIDN'T EVEN GET THE **PHOTOS** JONAH WANTED OF THE **EXHIBITION** FOR THE **SUNDAY BUGLE...**

WELL, Mr. PARKER, MAYBE I CAN PERSUADE YOU TO APPLY THOSE PHOTOGRAPHIC TALENTS **ELSEWHERE..?**

Oh, **YEAH..?**

MMMMMM

KLIK

THE MERCURY LOUNGE, SOHO --

THIS IS IT! **WHERE** IT'S **AT!** AND LIKE, **SO** WHAT I AM ALL ABOUT!

I COULD DO THIS **ALL NIGHT!** FOR THE REST OF MY **LIFE!** JUST DANCING! LETTING **LOOSE!** I FEEL SO **FRESH HERE!** SO **ALIVE!**...

...SO **FREE!**

I **AM** FREE!

THE POWER **LIBERATES** ME! I CAN --

AKASHA!

WHAT IN SET'S NAME ARE YOU DOING?!

Huh?

YOU WERE GIVEN DA POWER, AN' CHOSEN GOOD -- T'BE THE NEW PHARAOH A' DA WORL'WIDE HOOD -- TO RESTORE DA GLORY OF EGYPTIAN DAYS -- T'RULE SUPREME'N MAKE MAN YA SLAVES --

WHERE IT'S AT -- I GOT TUTANKHAMEN AN' A MICROPHONE --

YOUR DESTINY HAS BEEN SET, AKASHA! YOU WILL CONQUER THESE PEOPLES --

EXIT

-- AND DESTROY ANY WHO WOULD OPPOSE YOU!

YOU CAN *STEP OFF*, TUT! --

-- OR ANYBODY!

SHRRAAAK

-- YOU MIGHT HAVE GIVEN ME THESE ***WICKED COOL POWERS*** AND EVERYTHING, BUT I'M ***NOT*** GONNA BE ***JERKED AROUND*** AN' ***MANIPULATED*** BY A BUNCHA ***DEAD PHARAOHS*** OR ***GODS*** --

Huh? NUTHIN' HAPPENED..? IT... IT... WAS ALL IN MY...

...HEAD..?

THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE OFFICES OF THE NEW YORK **DAILY BUGLE**...

DAILY BUGLE

... I **KNOW** IT'S NOT ALL IN MY **HEAD**, Ms. BRANT! MY DAUGHTER WAS **POSSESSED**... *MANIPULATED* BY SOME **UNSEEN FORCES!** I DON'T KNOW...

... BUT I **DO** KNOW THAT **THAT** WASN'T AKASHA! I WENT TO THE **POLICE**, OF COURSE, BUT THEY HAVE SOME **STUPID RULE** THAT A PERSON CAN'T BE REPORTED AS **MISSING** FOR **48 HOURS** --

I'M SORRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, BUT THERE'S NOT REALLY MUCH THAT WE CAN **DO**. IT'S A **BIG** CITY AND THERE ARE **SO MANY** MISSING KIDS...

IS THERE ANY-PLACE YOU CAN THINK OF THAT SHE MIGHT **GO** IF SHE WERE **ON HER OWN..?**

WELL, SHE'S ALWAYS **LOVED** THE VILLAGE...

DEADLINE

THAT'S WHERE WE'LL START **LOOKING** THEN.

Eh?

PETER!

Mr. MARTINEZ, THIS IS PETER PARKER...

SIR, IF YOUR DAUGHTER'S THE GIRL WHO WAS **TUSSLING** WITH SPIDER-MAN AT THE **MET** YESTERDAY --

-- THEN I **REALLY** DON'T THINK SHE'S GONNA BE **TOO** HARD TO **FIND!**

AND AFTER A SHORT RIDE TO GREENWICH VILLAGE --

I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SOUND SO ***OPTIMISTIC*** FOR Mr. MARTINEZ BACK THERE AT THE BUGLE --

-- NOW I JUST HOPE THAT I CAN ***MAKE GOOD*** IN MY SEARCH FOR AKASHA! HE MAY HAVE NARROWED DOWN THE ***SECTION*** OF THE CITY SHE MIGHT BE IN --

-- BUT THE VILLAGE IS *STILL* A PRETTY ***BIG AREA*** TO CANVAS!

AND I DON'T WANT TO SPOOK HER BY DOING IT AS SPIDER-MAN... MAYBE I CAN FIND HER IF I CONCENTRATE...

AUDIO SUPPLIES

-- TRY TO FOCUS THE ***SPIDER-SENSE*** THAT WARNS ME OF ***DANGER*** --

-- AND HOPEFULLY PICK UP ON SOME OF THE ***EVIL VIBES*** SHE'S PUTTING OUT!..

... IF SHE'S THINKING ANY EVIL THOUGHTS, THAT IS!

HOOCH Beer

AND, ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

WELL, THAT IDEA TANKED ***BIG TIME***... ALL I GOT WAS A ***HEAD-ACHE*** FROM TRYING TO DO SOMETHING MY SPIDER-SENSE CAN'T --

-- ***YOWW!*** FELT ***THAT!*** THAT'S ***HER!*** I *KNOW* IT..!

Uh- Oh! AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE ***KNOWS*** I KNOW IT..!

YOU!

I KNOW *NOT* WHO YOU *ARE*, THOUGH THE *GODS* TELL ME THAT *YOU* WOULD *SEEK* TO *OPPOSE* ME!

LET *THIS* BE A *WARNING!* *DO NOT TRIFLE* WITH ONE WHO EMBODIES *ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT!*

SHRAAK

HOO! WELL, I GUESS WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT SHE'S NOW OFFICIALLY *'SPOOKED'*...

"WHICH MEANS THAT *I* DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SO *SNEAKY*...

"...*NOW* WE CAN DO THINGS...

HOOCH

bodega

"...SPIDEY STYLE!"

'KASHA..! WUS' UP..?!

AHH!

SHRAAK

BACK, MONGREL! DO NOT PRESUME TO LAY HANDS ON THE ONE TRUE PHARAOH!

NOT ON YOU, PRINCESS --

-- JUST YOUR STAFF!

SINCE I FIGURE THAT WITHOUT YOUR ZAP STICK HERE --

-- YOU CAN'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE..!

YOU ASSUME TOO MUCH, SPIDER --

SHRAAK

-- AND WRONGLY!

RETURN TO ME MY SCEPTRE!

SHRAAK

SHRAAK

Ahhh!

BEAN

BEAN

BRENDAN'S

MOVE!

Phil's

HELP!

OMIGOD! TH-THAT'S AKASHA! BLASTING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT WITH THAT... ENERGY..!

... NOT KILLING ANY-ONE, BUT... HOW...

HULGG!

OKAY, SPIDEY. THAT DIDN'T WORK... APPARENTLY, HER POWER IS INTERNALIZED... SHE JUST USES THE STAFF TO FOCUS HER ENERGY BLASTS... SO SHE DOESN'T REALLY NEED IT...

... ALTHOUGH, SHE DOES SEEM TO WANT IT BACK PRETTY BADLY...

SO LET'S SEE IF I CAN KEEP HER ***OFF BALANCE*** BY GIVING HER EVERYTHING ***BUT*** THE SCEPTRE..!

THWIP

...A LITTLE ***WEBBING.***

NOPE. SHE DISSOLVED IT BEFORE IT EVEN ***HIT*** HER..!

SHRIK

AND SPEAKING OF ***HITTING HER...*** THE ***WEBBING*** LET ME GET IN ***CLOSE ENOUGH*** TO DO --

KRAK

-- ***THIS!***

WOW.

MY ***PATIENCE,*** BUG, IS AT ITS ***END*** --

-- RETURN THE SCEPTRE *AT ONCE!*

SWISH

YOU *WANT* IT, YOU *GOT* IT!

-- *HEY!* YOU SHOULD FEEL THIS THING *HUM* WHEN IT GETS CLOSE TO YOU.../ IT'S LIKE --

-- *Oh,* I *GET* IT! IT'S NOT A *WEAPON*... IT'S LIKE... A *BATTERY!* YOU USE IT TO FOCUS YOUR *ENERGY BLASTS,* BUT IT ALSO FOCUSES *POWER BACK TOWARD YOU!*

SO IF I WERE TO SOMEHOW *DESTROY* IT...

...MAYBE WE'D GET THE *REAL AKASHA* BACK..?

PRATTLING BUG! YOU DEFY *THE GODS!* THE GIRL IS *OURS!*

HER *DESTINY* HAS BEEN PRE-ORDAINED FOR *MILLENNIA!*

ERRNT! WRONG ANSWER... SORRY ABOUT YOUR *STICK!*

KRAK

NO! YOU FOOL!

SHRAK

RISE, AKASHA! FULFILL YOUR DESTINY!

SHUT UP. LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOU ARE THE LIVING PHARAOH! YOU ARE ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT AS ONE! EMBRACE YOUR LEGACY!

I DON'T WANNA! GET OUTTA MY FREAKIN' HEAD!

AKASHA!

GEE, I HOPE THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING...

YOU MUST RESTORE THE GLORY..! YOU CAN RULE... THE WORLD...

I WON'T BE YOUR PUPPET --

-- LEAVE ME ALONE!

'KASHA BABY, ARE YOU..?

NO... DAD, DON'T TOUCH ME... I'M... OKAY...

...I'VE BEAT THEM... THEY'RE GONE, BUT...

...SOMETHING...

...SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME...

I'M...

...I'M...

SHE'S SPEECHLESS... AS HER NEW FORM HURLS HER INTO THE HEAVENS...

...HER (CELESTIAL) BODY RISING HIGH TO MOONTIME SKIES...

...SOARING AND SAILING IN A CELEBRATION OF TRIUMPH AND TRANSFORMATION...

...AND FREEDOM!

AND WITH THIS TRANSFORMATION COMES KNOWLEDGE...

...AN INNER UNDERSTAND THAT SHE HAS BEEN TESTED...

...THAT SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN INCREDIBLE POWER...AND REFUSED TO LET IT CORRUPT HER...

...THAT SHE HAS BEATEN THE DARK PHARAOHS...

...AND BEEN GRANTED A BOON BY THE BENEVOLENT ONES!

SHE IS TRULY --

-- FREE!

MY GOD! SHE'S SO...

...SO...

...BEAUTIFUL...

"I WAS GOING TO SAY 'HAPPY'..."

...LIKE SHE HASN'T BEEN IN AGES!

'KASHA? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, DAD, BUT I KNOW I'M ME.. JUST ME...!

AN' THERE'S MORE TO WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE THAN JUST ME GROWIN', Y'KNOW... ***WINGS!***... BUT, LIKE, I NEED SOME TIME AND ***SPACE*** TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT...

...BUT NOT RIGHT NOW...

I MEAN, I KNOW YOU WANT TO ***HELP ME*** AN' ALL, AND YOU ***WILL***...

...BUT NOT RIGHT NOW...

...OKAY?

AKASHA...?

I KNOW, DAD... I LOVE YOU, TOO.

HEY, ***SPIDER-MAN!***

THANKS. YOU 'KNOW -- FOR ***FIGHTIN' FOR ME*** OUT HERE WHILE I WAS TRYING TO GET MY ***HEAD TOGETHER!*** THAT WAS COOL'A YOU! I ***OWE YOU*** ONE!

LATER!

NEXT ISSUE:
'RINGO'S BACK!

(AND HE'S BRINGING SOME ***UNEXPECTED*** GUESTS WITH 'IM...)

BE HERE IN THIRTY FOR:

"OPENING DOORS"

-- 'NUFF SAID!

MARVEL COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

NOV
#21

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

NIGHT BRINGS THE HUNT

DEZAGO
WIERINGO
STULL

INTERLUDE:

NEW YORK CITY --

--THE ALEISTER BUILDING --

-- AN ARCHITECTURAL MARRIAGE OF THE GOTHIC AND CONTEMPORARY STYLES --

ALL CLEAR, RAVEN ONE -- MALTA TEAM DEPLOYED TO ESCORT --

-- THIS GLOOMING TOWER IS HOME TO THE PRESTIGIOUS **TECHNOMANCER CORPORATION**, CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST **POWERFUL** FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE **WORLD** --

-- ITS COUNTLESS AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS DO BATTLE **DAILY** IN THE TURBULENT WATERS OF **INTERNATIONAL LAW** AND **GEOPOLITICAL MERGERS**...

...AND YET, **THAT**...

-- THIS IS RAVEN ONE -- WE'RE **DOWN**, TECH-TOWER --

...IS BUT A **MASK**..!

GREETINGS, **MASTER OM.**

MAEGIS **SENREICH** AWAITS YOUR RETURN AT THE **BABYLON PORTAL** IN SUB-BASEMENT 2.

VERY **GOOD.** I VILL GO DOWN TO HIM AT VUNCE.

SEE THAT THE... **ARTIFACT**... IS BROUGHT UP TO THE **ASTRUM THEATER** -- I AM CERTAIN **MAEGIS SENREICH** VILL VANT TO BEGIN **IMMEDIATELY.**

DIRECT EVERY-ONE TO EMPLOY **"CAVEAT CANUM"** PRECAUTIONS AT ALL TIMES.

*IN TRUTH, THE CORPORATION IS A **FRONT** FOR THE **ORDER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF TECHNOMANCER** --*

*-- A **SECRET SOCIETY** OF SCIENTISTS AND THEURGISTS BENT ON A MAD QUEST FOR **UNFATHOMABLE** POWER, BOTH **NATURAL**... AND **SUPERNATURAL** --*

*-- USING A MIXTURE OF **TECHNOLOGY**...*

*...AND THE **ARCANE!***

***YOU! NEOMANCER!** HAVE A **CARE** VITH THAT --*

-- ANY **DAMAGE** THE ARTIFACT SHOULD **SUSTAIN** VILL BE PAID FOR VITH YOUR **LIFE..!**

Y-Y-YES, MAEGIS.

SHORTLY...

NOK NOK

MAEGIS SENREICH..?

GUNTHER...

...I HAVE IT.

TAK TAK TAK KATA TAK

IT'S...

...IT'S... *HERE..?*

VE ARRIVED MOMENTS AGO. IT IS BEING DELIVERED TO THE ***OBSERVATORY*** AS VE SPEAK.

WONDERFUL! ***WONDERFUL!***

FINALLY, OM -- AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF ***SEARCH*** AND ***STUDY*** WE ***HAVE IT!*** ONE OF THE MOST ***POWERFUL*** -- AND ELUSIVE -- TALISMANS ONLY ***WHISPERED ABOUT*** IN THE CIRCLES OF THE SEVEN MAGIKS! --

-- THE ***SPHERE*** OF ***SARA-KATH!***

ALREADY I HAVE IMPRESSED MY BROTHER TECHNOMANCERS BY ACHIEVING THE LEVEL OF ***MAEGIS*** AT SUCH AN ***EARLY AGE,*** BUT BY ACQUIRING THE NEAR-INFINITE ENERGIES OF THE ***SARA-KATH*** --

-- ***SURELY*** THERE WILL BE A SEAT FOR ME WITHIN THE ***DARK CHAMBER..!*** ***COME!*** WE MUST TEND TO THE SPHERE ***AT ONCE!***

SHOULD YOU NOT ***TERMINATE*** THE PROGRAM RUNNING VITHIN THE ***BABYLON PORTAL..?***

NO. THE SYSTEM IS MERELY SCANNING THE ***REALITY FREQUENCIES.*** EVEN IF IT ***WERE*** TO ALIGN THE PROPER COMBINATION --

-- IT WOULD HAVE TO ACCESS AN ***INCREDIBLE*** AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO OPEN EVEN THE ***SMALLEST*** OF ***DIMENSIONAL DOORWAYS..!***

ZAT

SHRRRIKK

...IT'LL BE *FINE...*

THE Stan Lee PRESENTS: SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

OPENING DOORS

A WEB-SLINGING EFFORT

QUEENS, NY --

-- JUST THIS SIDE OF MANHATTAN --

MAN! WHAT A NIGHT!

THIS LITTLE SPIDER IS UP *WAAAAY* PAST HIS BEDTIME! S'GONNA BE GOOD TO FINALLY GET *HOME* AND INTO A NICE... WARM...

ROB STULL
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...WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!

SPIDER-SENSE SAYING "BACK OFF!" -- SOMEBODY MUST BE WATCHING --

-- AND THE LAST THING WE WANT IS FOR ANYBODY TO CATCH THIS WEB-WEARY SPIDER-MAN SLIPPING IN THROUGH PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER'S BEDROOM WIND-

-- BINGO! THERE SHE IS! IT'S THAT NEW-LITTLE-GIRL-NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR...

JEEZ! AUNT ANNA'S RIGHT, SHE IS KINDA... SPOOKY! JUST SITTING THERE IN THE DARK... NOT EVEN MOVING...

... STARING...

WELL, SINCE SHE'S GOT THIS SIDE OF THE HOUSE COVERED... AND SEEING AS HOW I DON'T HAVE ANY "CIVVIES" TO CHANGE INTO...

... LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO SNEAK INTO THE HOUSE --

-- THROUGH THE ATTIC!

WOW! I HAVEN'T BEEN UP HERE SINCE...

...

...THAT DAY...

...

...WITH... BEN...*

THIS

* SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #240 –Reminiscin' Ralf

... GOD, I MISS HIM...

The Prince and the Pauper

Pinocchio

... OKAY, OKAY. C'MON, PETER... YOU'RE ***TIRED***...

...CAN'T SPEND TIME ***THINKING*** ABOUT THIS... THINKING ABOUT --

THIS END UP

-- !? --

...BEN..?

DON'T WANNA RUN THE RISK OF GOING DOWNSTAIRS AND RUNNING INTO ***AUNT ANNA*** IN MY ***SPIDEY COSTUME*** --

-- I HOPE I CAN FIND SOME OLD ***CLOTHES*** THAT STILL-- ***HERE WE GO!***

HEY!

HOWCUM I NEVER NOTICED THAT THAT ***BOX*** WAS UP HERE ***BEFORE..?***

LITTLE ***SNUG***, BUT IT'LL --

... THIS WAS *UNCLE BEN'S* BOX, BUT --

-- *OMIGOSH!* I THOUGHT HE GOT *RID* OF THESE..!

... MY OLD *MONSTER COMICS!* AUNT MAY TOLD HIM TO *THROW THEM OUT,* BUT HE MUST'VE *RESCUED* 'EM FOR ME!

WOW...

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

AND --

M'HOME, HONEY.

Mmm?

DID I JUST HEAR YOU UP IN THE *ATTIC?*

YEAH. I COULDN'T COME IN THROUGH *HERE* BECAUSE THAT NEW GIRL NEXT DOOR IS PLAYING JIMMY STEWART IN *REAR WINDOW*...

AUNT ANNA'S *RIGHT* ABOUT HER. SHE JUST SITS THERE IN THE DARK, STARING... LIKE SHE'S IN SOME KIND OF *TRANCE!* I DUNNO...

... IT'S KINDA *CREEPY!*

INTERLUDE 8

THE TECHNOMANCER CORPORATION --

-- WHERE SCIENCE AND MAGIK ARE ABOUT TO --

-- COLLIDE..?!

WHAT I DON'T GET IS WHY EVERYBODY ELSE IS WAY UP IN THE ASTRUM **THEATER** ATTENDING TO MAEGIS **SENREICH** AN' HIS COOL NEW **TOY** --

-- AN' WE'RE STUCK DOWN HERE IN THE **DUNGEON** GUARDIN' NOTHIN' BUT A **BIG EMPTY ROOM** WITH A **COMPUTER** IN IT!

I DON'T **CARE!** ALL THAT **OM GUY** HAS TO DO IS **LOOK** AT ME AND I --

-- **HEY!** D'JOO **HEAR** SOMETHIN'?!

QUIT TEASIN', MAN...THAT AIN'T FUNNY...

NO. **REALLY.** IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM **INSIDE** THE **LAB.**

C'MON, **REALLY...** CUT IT **OUT.**

S'LIKE A... **CHITTERIN'** SOUND'R SOMETHIN'... LIKE **WATER** RUNNIN'.

STOP IT OR I'LL --

WHADDAYA GONNA **TELL** ON ME..? **OOOO,** I'M **SCA** --

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

-AAAIEEE!

END INTERLUDE: 8

THE CITY ROOM OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE --

-- WHERE FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER, PETER PARKER, IS FINDING THAT SOMETIMES BEING A FRIEND MEANS JUST LETTING SOMEONE ELSE VENT...

BUT, ROBBIE --

...LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU A "JONAH-LECTURE", PETER, BUT WITH HIM IN THE HOSPTIAL...

...THANKS TO...THAT BEATING HE TOOK IN THE ELEVATOR, MAYBE I HAVE TO..!*

BUT --

NOW, I DON'T CARE IF THIS GIRL SPROUTED WINGS AND FLEW OFF WITH YOUR CAMERA, WE NEEDED THOSE PICTURES...

* SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #246 – Ralf.

THIS IS JOE "ROBBIE" ROBERTSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE BUGLE, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...FRIEND.

YOW! WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON AROUND HERE, I KINDA FORGOT THAT ROBBIE'S THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STANDING AT "GROUND ZERO"!...

...AND I KNOW THAT HIS MARRIAGE HAS TAKEN A LOT OF THE FALLOUT.

YO! PETE!

HEY, BILLY! HOW YA DOIN'?

'S'UP, MAN..?" HOW'S MY BEST BUD AND PART-TIME PARTNER?

Aw, **DUDE!** LIKE, YOU SHOULDA BEEN UP HERE **EARLIER!** THERE WAS THIS **Oh TASTY CHICK** LOOKIN' FOR YA -- I MEAN SHE WAS A **TOTAL HONEY** --

-- I TOLD HER WE WERE **BROS** AND EVERYTHING, BUT SHE WOULDN'T LEAVE A **MESSAGE**... SAID SHE'D CATCH YA **LATER.**

YEAH..? WHAT'D SHE **LOOK LIKE?**

Oh, **DUDE** -- SHE WAS A **HOTTY!** BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES -- MAYBE AN OLD **GIRLFRIEND** OR SOMETHIN'?

Huh.

IF **NOT,** PETE, YA **GOTTA** INTRODUCE ME!

LISTEN, MAN -- I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT TO CATCH A **BITE**... YA WANNA **GO?**

Oh. SURE. THAT'S COOL, PETE --

LATER, DUDE.

NOT!

SEE YA.

Ah, **SORRY,** BILLY... I'M MEETING SOME **FRIENDS** DOWNSTAIRS FOR LUNCH...

...MAYBE WE CAN DO IT SOME OTHER TIME.

LENNY! HEY, MAN! I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT TO GET A **BITE** -- WANNA **GO?**

JEEZ, PETER -- YOU ARE SUCH AN INCREDIBLY BIG HUGE ...*DOPE!*

"...SORRY, BILLY -- I CAN'T GO WITH YOU 'CAUSE I GOTTA HOOK UP WITH SOME *FRIENDS...!*"

WHAT A *JERK!* I SHOULD'VE INVITED HIM *ALONG*... I HOPE HE WASN'T *HURT*...

...I MADE IT *SOUND* LIKE HE COULD NEVER BE MY *FRIEND.*

HOTEL

$5 PARKING LOT

AND WHY *COULDN'T* HE BE?! I DON'T REALLY *HAVE* ANY FRIENDS -- *GUY* FRIENDS -- THAT I'M *CLOSE* TO... THAT I COULD JUST *HANG WITH...*

...LIKE IT WAS WITH *BEN...*

AND BILLY SURE *WANTS* TO BE FRIENDS! SURE, HE SEEMED KIND OF... *OBNOXIOUS* AT FIRST, BUT...

THERE'RE *MARY JANE* AND *JILL*... THOSE TWO HAVE BECOME REALLY TIGHT -- AND MARY JANE MAKES IT LOOK EASY!

HURRY UP, TIGER! US GIRLS IS *STARVIN'!*

HELLO, HUSBAND. =MWAH= TAKE THAT KISS.

MMPH.

C'MON, YOU TWO -- LET'S GET GOING! I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU THIS NEW COFFEE BAR THAT I'VE FOUND.

IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND I WENT THERE WITH...

?!?

EXCUSE ME, Mr. SPIDER-PERSON, SIR..? BUT DID I JUST DETECT A TWINGE OF...

...SPIDER-SENSE?

NO...NOT SPIDER-SENSE...

...WHEN THESE SHOES GO ON SALE...

...IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...SOMETHING GOOD...DIFFERENT... LIKE IT'S...

...CALLING ME../

HEY, YOU GUYS! C'MON! WE'RE HERE!

MY BRAND NEW FAVORITE PLACE TO GO!

The Daily Grind

TA DA! THE DAILY GRIND!

ISN'T THAT A GREAT NAME..?

OPEN

OMIGOSH...

...THE DAILY...

...GRIND..?

FOREST HILLS --

NOK NOK NOK

YES? WHO --

Ms. WATSON..?

ER...

...YES?

HI. I'M ***ELLEN HIBBERT*** -- MY DAUGHTER AND I JUST MOVED IN NEXT DOOR -- IN ***YOUR*** OLD HOUSE, I THINK..?

I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN OVER TO INTRODUCE MYSELF ***BEFORE THIS,*** BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN ***REALLY BUSY...***

...I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO ME A ***FAVOR?***

HOPEY'S BUS IS RUNNING ***LATE,*** AND MY ***PARTNER'S*** HERE TO ***PICK ME UP.*** I NORMALLY WOULDN'T ***ASK*** THIS, BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD MIND JUST KEEPING AN ***EYE*** ON ***HOPE*** 'TIL THE BUS COMES..?

IT'LL BE ***FIVE MINUTES*** AT THE MOST...

WELL... OF ***COURSE!*** I'LL BE ***HAPPY*** TO!

Oh, THANK YOU ***SO*** MUCH.

NOW, HOPE -- YOU ***MIND*** Ms. WATSON.

Oh, Ms. WATSON -- I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ***ONE THING*** --

-- ***HOPEY'S DEAF.***

INTERLUDE:

OM, IT'S...

...BEAUTIFUL!

TO THINK -- WE HAVE THE LEGENDARY 'SPHERE OF 'SARA-KATH! IN OUR POSSESSION --

-- A RESERVOIR OF UNIMAGINABLE -- *UNLIMITED* -- MYSTICAL ENERGIES!

ONCE OUR TECHNOLOGY CAN *MAP* ITS PARAMETERS -- *TAP* INTO ITS *POTENTIAL* --

-- THE *TECHNOMANCER AGENCY* WILL BE VIRTUALLY *UNSTOPPABLE*. IN *BOTH* THE FIELDS OF *INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT* --

-- AND *ARCANIC CORPORATE TAKE-OVERS!*

HAAARRGH!

MAEGIS! MAEGIS SEINREICH!

WHO *DARES..?!*

IT'S...

...THE...

...*BABYLON PORTAL*, SIR!

AAARRGH!

IT'S... *OPENED*...

...AND *SOMETHING*...

...GOD HELP US...

...*SOMETHING'S HERE!*

CHEEE

CHEEE

CHEEE

CHEEE

...SO, DON'T YOU GUYS THINK THIS PLACE JUST *ROCKS?!*

I MEAN, IT IS SO *COOL!* AND IT *LOOKS* JUST LIKE THE ONE ON --

Oh, MY LORD...

SPECTA #199

MARY JANE! PETER!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S *YOU!*

MY *GOODNESS!* IT'S SO GOOD TO *SEE* YOU!

Oh, I'VE *THOUGHT* ABOUT YOU TWO *SO MUCH!*

I THOUGHT SURE I'D NEVER *SEE YOU AGAIN* -- AFTER EVERYTHING THAT *HAPPENED*... I'M *SORRY* ABOUT THE *BABY*...*

...AND BEN... WE STILL *MISS HIM* HERE...

* SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #418 FOR DETAILS – Revelations Ralf.

BEN LOVED YOU, *SHIRLEY* -- AND LOVED *WORKING HERE.*

BUZZ, WASN'T IT?

STILL IS --

-- WELCOME BACK, PETER!

NOW I'M *NOT* GOING TO LET YOU TWO *RUN OFF!* YOU TAKE A SEAT --

-- IN HONOR OF YOUR *HOMECOMING,* LUNCH IS ON THE *HOUSE!*

Oh, *SHIRLEY* -- I ALMOST FORGOT... THIS IS MY FRIEND, *JILL STACY,* AND --

-- JILLY!? WHAT'S WRONG?!

WELL I WAS REALLY *EXCITED,* 'CAUSE I FOUND THIS *COOL NEW PLACE* THAT I WANTED TO TAKE YOU TO... AND NOW IT'S STARTING TO LOOK AN *AWFUL LOT...*

...LIKE *YOU GUYS* HAVE BEEN HERE *BEFORE!*

AAAIEEE!

CHEE

CHEE CHEE

GUNTHER! SLOW DOWN! --

-- DO NOT GET AHEAD OF ME!

THERE'S NOT TIME FOR THAT, OM! THE PORTAL IS --

Ahhh! IT HURTS!

-- VAS IS --

Oh MY...

...GOD...?

...GOD..?

...NO...

...NOT YET!

ALTHOUGH ONCE I'VE MASTERED THE WORKINGS OF THIS DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY DEVICE, I WON'T HESITATE TO ADD THAT TITLE TO MY RESUME!

BLEL!--

-- GREMLYN-LORD! --

-- PLASMAGE! --

GOD!

YESSSS... I LIKE THAT...

...I LIKE IT A LOT!

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

THE PARKER HOME, LATER THAT NIGHT --

Huh?

PETER..?

WHERE'RE YOU *GOING*, HONEY..?

...GOING... I'M...

...OUT... ...I GUESS I'M GOING *OUT*...

WAIT, TIGER... ARE YOU *OKAY*? YOU --

AND, A HALF HOUR LATER, IN MANHATTAN --

THAT... *FEELING*... THAT STRANGE ***SENSATION***...

ALMOST ***MESMERIZING***...

TUGGING AT ME, ***CALLING*** ME...

...LEADING ME HERE...

AND I DON'T HAVE A ***CLUE*** WHAT IT IS..!

THWIP

IT'S NOT MY ***SPIDER-SENSE***. IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...

...BUT ***WHAT?!*** ALL I ***DO*** KNOW IS THAT IF I DON'T ***THWIP*** UP THERE AND CHECK IT OUT NOW...

...I'M GONNA BE WONDERIN' WHAT IT WAS FOR A ***LOOOONG TIME!***

NEXT ISSUE:

The Doctor (Strange) is in!

BE HERE!

MARVEL COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

DEC
#22

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN®

SPIDEY & DOCTOR STRANGE— —Trapped in a DARK & DISTANT DIMENSION!

DEZAGO WIERINGO CASE

™

It was a war of **spells** and **conjurings** -- of battles met by **gods** and **near-gods** wielding **incantations** as their swords.

It was a war of **summonings**! A war of **bindings**! --

-- it was a **war of magik**! The war of the seven spheres!

And as the deities of the **Vishanti** joined the battle **across the endless realms**, fighting for the **purity** of their mystic power --

-- the entirety of their **magiks** were held in **reserve**, **committed** to the **struggle**, accessible **only** to the **warriors** in the **fray**!

It spanned millennia...

...it lasted a nanosecond...

Now the war is **over**. The conflict is **resolved**. The magik...

...**is free**!

And doctor stephen strange, **sorcerer supreme** and **master of the mystic arts**, having long suffered the loss of his vested magiks --

--can once again become **one** with the **power** of the **Vishanti**!

His meditations over, Dr. strange shifts his attention to a different matter entirely...

...AS HE SCANS FOR ANY DISTURBANCES IN THE FABRIC OF OUR REALITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER...

Eh?!

...HE DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK VERY FAR!

BY THE HOSTS --

AAARGH!

LUD

UNGH!... CAUGHT ME UNAWARES... SUCH POWER! THE "EYE" SAW IT, TOO... A RIFT!...

MAS -- STEPHEN!? ARE YOU WELL? I HEARD A CRASH! HERE, LET ME HEL-

NO, WONG! I'M ALL RIGHT. I CAN DO IT MYSELF.

I WISH TO.

OLD HABITS DIE HARD, STEPHEN. TELL ME, WHAT DID YOU SEE THAT AFFECTED YOU IN SUCH A VIOLENT MANNER?

REMEMBER, OLD FRIEND -- WE ARE NO LONGER SERVANT AND MASTER. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT REALLY, I'M FINE.

I FELT A RIFT... A FISSURE IN OUR REALITY... WITH ALL MANNER OF BEINGS, PUSHING, TEARING THEIR WAY INTO OUR REALITY --

-- THE HOLE GETTING BIGGER...

MY *AMULET*... THE ALL-SEEING *EYE OF AGAMOTTO*, REVEALS MORE...

THE ANOMALY ISN'T *FAR* FROM HERE. MIDTOWN. CENTERED AROUND THE *ALEISTER BUILDING*...

I MUST GO THERE *IMMEDIATELY* AND MEND THIS *RIFT* BEFORE IT HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO *GROW ANY LARGER*...

-- AND SPILL ANY MORE *DENIZENS* OF THE *DARKER DIMENSIONS* OUT ONTO THE STREETS OF *NEW YORK!*

BE *CAREFUL*, MY FRIEND.

DON'T WORRY. AFTER ALL...

FOOMP

...I *AM* A DOCTOR!

I DIDN'T WISH TO *ALARM* WONG, BUT THE *RAMIFICATIONS* OF THIS MATTER BEAR *MUCH MORE WEIGHT* THAN I LET ON...

...REPAIRING A *TEAR* IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY WILL REQUIRE *ENORMOUS* ENERGIES! IF I SHOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THE RIFT CONTINUES TO GROW *UNCHECKED* --

-- IT COULD VERY WELL CONSUME *ALL OF THIS REALITY!*

MEANWHILE, AT THE VERY SAME ALEISTER BUILDING, HOME OF THE ENIGMATIC **TECHNO-MANCER AGENCY** --

-- A **SPIDER** SITS **TRANSFIXED**, MESMERIZED BY THE MYSTERIOUS **FORCE** THAT **DREW** HIM HERE..! UNTIL...

SPIDER-MAN!

Huh? DOCTOR STRANGE?!

YOU APPEAR TO BE **LOST**, WALL CRAWLER! I HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE THE **ARCANE FORCES** THAT I SENSE ARE AT **WORK** IN THIS AREA. BUT TELL ME, WHAT HAS BROUGHT **YOU** HERE?

WELL... **WEB-FLUID**, MOSTLY..!

ACTUALLY, DOC, I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** IT IS. SOMETHING... **CALLING** ME, **PULLING** ME HERE! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT **'ARCANE,'** BUT I GET THE SENSE THAT IT'S **GOOD**, NOT EVIL OR ANYTHING!

AND IT'S COMING FROM **INSIDE** THAT BUILDING..!

INTERESTING.

YOU DON'T **SEE IT**, THEN..?

SEE IT..?

SEE **WHAT**..?

I WILL REMOVE THE SPELL THAT **MASKS** IT --

BEHOLD!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN & Dr. STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME IN:

The Politics of Magic

TODD DEZAGO & MIKE WIERINGO
SCRIPT CO-PLOTS
PENCILS

RICH CASE & SCOTT HANNA
INKS

COMICRAFT'S KIFF SCHOLL
LETTERS

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR SUPREME

THIS ***TOWER*** HAS BECOME A THING OF ***CHAOS!*** A POINT OF ***EGRESS*** FOR THE CANCEROUS ***EVILS*** OF THE DARK ***NETHER-REALMS*** TO SPREAD OUT INTO OUR OWN ***UNSUSPECTING*** REALITY!

IT IS SHIFTING AND GROWING BY THE SECOND..!

NO WAY.

I BELIEVE THE ***CORRECT*** RESPONSE IS...

...WAY.

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MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE TWISTING, SHIFTING ALEISTER BUILDING --

-- TWO AGENTS OF THE MYSTERIOUS TECHNOMANCER CORPORATION RAISE THE QUESTION THAT WILL SOON BE ON EVERYONE'S LIPS...

WH- WHO ARE YOU..?

HEL-LO..? I BELIEVE I ALREADY ANSWERED THAT. REMEMBER..? BUEL! PLASMMAGE! GREMLYN-LORD! AND SOON TO BE, I'M HOPING, UNLESS I SOMEHOW SCREWED UP THE APPLICATION...

...GOD!

BUT THOSE ARE JUST TITLES -- YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE, AREN'T YOU..?

OKAY... HOW'S THIS..?

"ONCE, IN MY OWN REALM, I WAS A WELL-RESPECTED NOBLE...

"...BUT, AS ANYONE WILL TELL YOU, THE IDYLLIC LIFE IS BORING AS PORRIDGE.

"I YEARNED FOR MORE; MORE EXPERIENCES, MORE KNOWLEDGE...

"...MORE POWER!

"TURNING TO THE MAGIKS, I IMMERSED MYSELF IN THE DARK STUDIES, POURING OVER EVERY DUSTY TOME I COULD FIND...

"...BUT NOT WITHOUT CERTAIN...

"...SOON DISCOVERING THAT THE POWER I SOUGHT COULD BE HAD...

"...SACRIFICES.

"LIBERATED, TRANSFORMED... I WAS GRANTED MALEVOLENT POWER BEYOND MY IMAGININGS!

"THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, HOWEVER, DID NOT APPROVE OF MY VENTURING INTO SUCH DARK, DEVIANT AND ABERRANT WATERS...

"AND THERE I HAVE WAITED, SURROUNDED BY MY GREMLYNS, PLOTTING FOR THE DAY WHEN I COULD RETURN...

"...AND EXACT MY REVENGE ON THOSE ARROGANT, PRETENTIOUS, OFFICIOUS, CONDESCENDING, STUCK-UP -- DID I SAY "PRETENTIOUS"? -- POMPOUS... JERKS!"

"OUT OF FEAR AND JEALOUSY, THEY BRANDED ME A MADMAN AND BANISHED ME TO AN EQUALLY DARK, DEVIANT AND ABERRANT BACKWATER DIMENSION!

THE!
END!

AND WHAT, YOU MIGHT ASK, WAS THIS INSIDIOUS, EVIL POWER THAT CAUSED THEM TO **TREMBLE** AND **QUAKE** WITH THE **KNOWING** OF IT..?

WITH MY MAGIK, I CONTROL ALL THINGS...

...FLESH!

SEE..?

AAAHHH!

ISN'T THAT... COOL?

AND YOU... HAVE SUCH NICE...

...SKIN.

BUT **THAT** DOESN'T INTEREST ME RIGHT NOW. THERE'S SOMETHING **ELSE** HERE, ISN'T THERE? I CAN **FEEL** IT... SOMETHING OF **UNIMAGINABLE... MAGIKAL...**

...POWER!

THE APARTMENT OF ONE **BILLY WALTERS**, FREELANCE REPORTER FOR THE NEW YORK **DAILY BUGLE** --

NOK NOK NOK

DON'T GO IN THERE, SCULLY -- HE'S GOT A --

NOK NOK NOK

OKAY, DUDE -- I'M COMIN'! KEEP YER UNDEROOS O--

WHOA! M-M--

WALTERS... LET ME IN.

Mr. JAMESON! COME IN! SORRY ABOUT THE **MESS**, SIR. I DIDN'T -- I MEAN --

-- WHAT ARE YOU **DOING** HERE..?

LISTEN, **WALTERS** -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE **HEARD** ABOUT WHAT'S **GOING ON** DOWN AT THE BUGLE...

...ABOUT THE TAKEOVER AND OSBORN...

PIZZA

COLA

LOOK, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MINCE WORDS. YOU'RE A **GOOD REPORTER**, BILLY -- **REALLY** GOOD! FOR A KID SO GREEN, YOU COVER A STORY LIKE A **SEASONED PRO**...

...YOU'RE A GOOD **INVESTIGATOR** AND I... I...

...I NEED YOUR HELP...

...BUT I WANT YOU TO **UNDERSTAND** THAT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ASK YOU TO DO COULD GET **VERY DANGEROUS** AND REQUIRES **ABSOLUTE SECRECY!**

YOU --

-- YOU CAN **COUNT** ON ME, Mr. JAMESON.

I'M THERE.

GOOD... NOW HERE'S WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO...

BY THE *HOARY HOST OF HOGGOTH!* --

-- THEY HAVE THE *SPHERE!*

TECHNOMANCE

NOW, WHEN YOU SAY *"SPHERE,"* I'M HOPING YOU MEAN LIKE... A *BASKETBALL*...

...'CAUSE, Y'KNOW, I'M THINKING... POWERS *ASIDE*... YOU AND ME IN A *PICK-UP GAME?* WE COULD PROBABLY SHOOT SOME *SERIOUS HOOP!*

THE *'SPHERE* OF *'SARA-KATH!* POTENTIALLY ONE OF THE MOST *POWERFUL* OBJECTS IN THE *KNOWN DIMENSIONS!* ITS TRUE ORIGINS REMAIN A *MYSTERY*...

...ITS PURPOSE IS TO *AUGMENT* BY A *HUNDREDFOLD* THE MAGIKAL ABILITIES OF *ANY WHO POSSESS IT!*

WELL, IF IT'S *IN* THERE, LET'S JUST GO IN AND *GET* IT!

WERE IT THAT *SIMPLE.*

THE *EYE* SHOWED ME THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF THIS BUILDING HAD CONSTRUCTED A *DIMENSIONAL PORTAL,* BORN OF SCIENCE AND MAGIK -- *UNSUCCESSFUL* AT FIRST --

-- UNTIL IT BECAME *ENERGIZED* BY THE *SPHERE!*

THE *INTERIOR* OF THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS NOW IN A CONSTANT STATE OF *FLUX* -- CONTINUOUSLY *SHIFTING* -- OPENING *DOORWAYS* INTO REALITIES BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN...

...LETTING *'THINGS'*... THROUGH...

...TO ENTER THE BUILDING *NOW* WOULD MEAN BECOMING A *PLAYTHING* OF THAT *CHAOS!*

AND WE DON'T WANT *THAT*...

LISTEN, *DOC* -- YOU'RE THE *MAGIC GUY!* CAN'T YOU JUST *WHIP* UP A SPELL TO KINDA LIKE... *'PAUSE'* IT OR SOMETHING...

...AT *LEAST* LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GO IN AND *GRAB THE SPHERE?*

I BELIEVE THAT I *COULD* MAGIKALLY MAINTAIN THE SHIFTING PLANES, IN A SENSE, *'FREEZE'* THE FLUX, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE GREAT *CONCENTRATION* AND *EFFORT* --

-- AND THAT I REMAIN *OUT HERE!* YOU WOULD HAVE TO DO THE ACTUAL... *'GRABBING,'* WHILE I KEPT THE REALITIES *STATIC.*

NO *PROBLEM.* *DONE.* LET'S *DO* IT.

MOMENTS LATER, AS Dr. STRANGE PREPARES HIMSELF FOR THE FORMIDABLE TASK AHEAD --

JEEZ -- THIS IS ALL SO OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

MAGIC AND MONSTERS AND OTHER DIMENSIONS...

I WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR --

-- THERE IT IS AGAIN! THAT FEELING IN MY HEAD... AND MY HEART... CALLING ME ...PULLING...

NOT LIKE MY SPIDER-SENSE, NOT A WARNING... IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...

...SOMETHING IN THAT MESS REACHING OUT TO ME, TRYING TO SPEAK TO ME...

...BUT WHAT IS IT?!

THE FOREST HILLS HOME OF PETER AND MARY JANE PA -- Huh?

...THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR DOING THIS, Ms. WATSON.

PLEASE, ELLEN. CALL ME ANNA.

...Er... Um... WHICH IS, Uh... RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THE HOME OF ELLEN AND HOPE HIBBERT..?!

OH, WHERE MARY JANE'S AUNT ANNA IS CURRENTLY BABYSITTING FOR THE PARKERS' NEW NEIGHBORS!

NOW, HOPE IS ALL READY FOR BED, AND YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT SHE MINDS WELL, SO SHE WON'T GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE. SHE KNOWS WHEN HER BEDTIME IS...

...AND SHE ALSO KNOWS THAT SHE NEEDS TO PRACTICE HER SIGN LANGUAGE... SHE'S A LITTLE STUBBORN ABOUT IT, BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN READ LIPS, SHE NEEDS TO LEARN TO COMMUNICATE WITH MORE THAN JUST WRITING.

...AND THE CHOO-CHOO WENT...

WELL, I THINK WE CAN HANDLE THAT.

HOPE..? I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T LIKE IT, BUT YOUR MOTHER SAYS THAT WE NEED TO PRACTICE YOUR SIGNING...

SO...

...SHOW ME.

MEANWHILE...

SO, WHAT'S UP, DOC --

ARE WE GONNA *DO* THIS? 'CAUSE *I'M* READY WHEN YOU-

SHOOMP

SHOOMP

HO!

HEY, *DOC?!* I THOUGHT YOU WERE STAYING *OUTSIDE*... Y'KNOW, I CAN *SEE* RIGHT THROUGH YOU..?

THIS IS MY *ASTRAL SELF-- SEPARATED FROM* MY PHYSICAL BODY. THIS WAY I CAN *ACCOMPANY* YOU THROUGH THIS *LABYRINTH OF MADNESS*...

...AND *IDENTIFY* THE DOORS YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE IT TO THE *SPHERE!*

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOUR *FEELINGS*, DOC --

-- BUT I HAD *THIS ONE* IDENTIFIED AS A DOOR *RIGHT OFF!*

WHOA.

WHOA, INDEED.

HAVE A ***CARE,*** SPIDER-MAN. THESE REALMS CAN BE BOTH ***BREATH-TAKING...***

...AND FULL OF ***PERIL!***

GOTCHA.

SO, IS THAT ***ODDLY GLOWING RECTANGLE*** WAY UP THERE THE DOORWAY INTO THE NEXT ***LEVEL..?***

YES, IT IS. IT'S --

SPIDER-MAN! BE ***CAREFUL! THERE ARE --***

LOOK, DOC -- DON'T WORRY ABOUT ***ME...*** I'VE GOT THE ***DANGER*** THING ***COVERED..!***

OOOR R

SHOOMP

YOU JUST KEEP POINTING ME IN THE ***RIGHT DIRECTION!***

SHOOMP

YAAAAHH

CHUFF

SNOW? MAN, IT'S *F-FFREEZING* HERE! AND *THERE'S* THE DOOR-WAY?! --

-- H-HOW AM I GONNA GET WAY UP --

SNOWSNAKES!

HRRSSSSS

HRRRSSSS

-- THERE..?

SPIDER-MAN, MOVE!

HRSSS

OKAY... *THIS* I CAN USE!

I'M HALFWAY THERE...

CHUFF

WHADDAYA SAY, UGLY --

THWAP

HRRR

-- WANNA TAKE ME TO THE *TOP?*

HRRRR

THAT'S IT, TWISTY -- *CRACK THE WHIP!*

SHOOMP

SEE, DOC -- I *TOLD* YOU... *NOTHING* TO WORRY ABOUT!

WELL... EXCEPT MAYBE...

...HIM!

SHOOMP

UNFORTUNATELY, SPIDER-MAN, THIS CREATURE IS NOT KNOWN TO ME.

GREAT.

I MUST COMMEND YOU, STRANGER! YOU MUST BE A VERY POWERFUL SORCERER TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STABILIZE THE REALITY-STORM IN THIS PLACE. MY THANKS. IT'S HELPED ME OUT CONSIDERABLY...

I'VE MARKED YOUR PROGRESS. YOU'RE QUITE GOOD.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, HOWEVER...

...I AM MUCH BETTER!

CHEE CHEE CHEE

LOOK, SPIDER-MAGE -- I'M NOT COMPLETELY STUPID! I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE...

...THE SPHERE OF SARA-KATH IS A LEGENDARY POWER! IT WILL NO DOUBT ATTRACT COUNTLESS TWO-BIT WIZARDS SUCH AS YOURSELF!

YO, DOC..?

THAT'S OKAY...

...I HAVE A COLLECTION OF TWO-BIT WIZARDS AT HOME!

SHRUSSH

YIKES! GOTTA STAY OUTTA THIS GUY'S WAY LONG ENOUGH FOR DOC TO GET A FIX ON HIM..!

FLESH

THWIP

AND THOUGH IT'S NOT MUCH AGAINST MAGIC, MAYBE A LITTLE WELL-PLACED WEBBING WILL BUY ME SOME --

-- WHOA! INTERCEPTION!

THWAP

MY BOYS ARE VERY LOYAL, SPIDER...

...IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR ANY OF THEM --

-- TO TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM!

CHEE CHEE

HEY, DOC -- I COULD USE SOME HELP HERE...

I'M TRYING, SPIDER-MAN. HIS MAGIKS ARE --

DOC?!... HELP?!

SO YOU'RE NOT ALONE? YOU'RE WORKING WITH A FAMILIAR..?!

KSHH

THAT CHANGES THINGS!

?

YA THINK MAYBE HE'S AFRAID OF DOCTORS...?

OUTSIDE.

IT HAS BEEN RAINING NOW FOR **HOURS**, THE WORST STORM THE CITY HAS SEEN IN **DECADES** --

OBLIVIOUS TO THE ELEMENTS, Dr. STRANGE'S PHYSICAL FORM SITS ALONE, **STRAINING** WITH **INCREDIBLE EFFORT** TO MAINTAIN THE **STABILITY** OF THE **DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY** ACROSS THE STREET.

WHEN --

HUUARRGH!

INCREDIBLE! **ANOTHER** DISTURBANCE! THIS ONE OF SUCH ***TREMENDOUS MAGNITUDE!***... RIFT... DISPELLING AN ***ENTIRE UNIVERSE!***... IMAGES OF...

...A ***DIFFERENT*** SPHERE... A BLUE... ***BALL!*** FRANKLIN...

NO! CAN'T ***DIVERT*** MY ATTENTION NOW! MUST ***REFOCUS*** MY CONCENTRATION... HOLD THE REALMS ***STEADY***...

...FOR IF ***ANYTHING*** WERE TO CAUSE ME TO ***FALTER*** NOW...

...***SPIDER-MAN*** WOULD SURELY ***DIE!***

INSIDE.

...SAYING, HIS MAGIKS ARE *INTERNALIZED*, MAKING IT *DIFFICULT* FOR ME TO --

DOC? HEY, DOC -- WE'RE GETTING SOME *INTERFERENCE* HERE! YOU'RE --

-- GONE!

Huh?

THERE --

-- NOW THAT HE'S TAKEN *CARE* OF --

-- LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF..!

NEXT MONTH:

SPIDEY VS... BLEL! DOC VS... WHATEVER THAT THING WAS! THE TECHNOMANCERS! AND GREMLYNS! GREMLYNS! GREMLYNS! 'NUFF SAID!

THANKS, SCOTT!

MARVEL COMICS

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

JAN
#23

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DEZAGO
WIERINGO
CASE

GUEST STARRING DOCTOR STRANGE

THE CATACLYSMIC CLIMAX TO THE TWISTED TALE OF THE TECHNOMANCERS!

NOW, SPIDER-MAN --

-- PREPARE TO OOZE!

Uh Oh. *THAT* DOESN'T SOUND HAPPY...

GOTTA *MOVE* OR THIS ***BUEL*** GUY IS GONNA MAKE ME ONE OF HIS ***PLASMA PUPPETS***..! ALL THIS MAGIC STUFF IS OUT OF MY ***LEAGUE***...

...JEEZ, WHERE'S ***DOC*** WHEN I ***NEED*** HIM..?

GRRREEE!

BY THE ***HOSTS!*** IN HELPING SPIDER-MAN IN MY ***ASTRAL*** FORM, I'VE LEFT MY ***PHYSICAL SELF*** VULNERABLE TO ***AMBUSH!***

HAVE TO HURRY -- ***MERGE*** WITH MY BODY BEFORE --

CONFUSED, TRUE BELIEVERS?! WELL, DON'T BE. JUST KEEP ON READING AND WE'LL BRING YOU UP TO SPEED AS WE GO ALONG...

...Oh, AND HANG ON TIGHT! ...'CAUSE WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO COME BACK FOR ANYBODY..!

THE Stan Lee PRESENTS... SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

The SPIRIT is WILLING; The FLESH...

TODD DEZAGO & MIKE WIERINGO storytellers RICH CASE inks
RS/COMICRAFT/KF letters GREGORY WRIGHT colors RALPH MACCHIO editor BOB HARRAS chief

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THE BEAST IS *ATTACKING!* ABOUT TO TEAR MY BODY TO *SHREDS BEFORE MY EYES!*

IF I'M NOT IN *TIME,* THIS IS GOING TO BE *UNPLEASANT!*

FWOOSH

GREEE!

THUNK

?!

NOT TODAY, *OGRE!* YOU'LL NOT HAVE *STEPHEN STRANGE* AS YOUR MID-MORNING *MORSEL...*

ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE I HAVE A *SPELL* THAT WILL SATE YOUR *OGRE-ISH APPETITE...*

VASSH

GREEE!

...OR NOT.

INSIDE --

FLASH!

CURSED *FLEA!* WOULD IT KILL YOU TO JUST STAY *PUT* FOR A MOMENT?!

THAT'S *SPIDER*, AND *YES!*

WHOA!

OOPS.

FLASH

CHEEEE

CHURGLECHURGLE

YIKES! ...AND *YUCK!* POOR LITTLE GUY...

CHEEEP

FLASH

WELL, I DEFINITELY *DO NOT* WANT A HELPING OF *THAT!* I GOTTA GET MY SPIDER-BUTT *OUTTA* HERE!

UNFORTUNATELY, BUEL IS BETWEEN *ME* AND THE NEXT REALITY DOORWAY... AND I'D RATHER NOT GO BACK THE WAY I CAME... THOSE *SNOWSNAKES* LOOKED A LITTLE TOO HUNGR-

HEY! NOW *THERE'S* AN IDEA..!

SEE LAST ISSUE – Ralfomancer

OUTSIDE --

THE MAGIKS HAD ***NO EFFECT*** ON THE OGRE! INDEED, THE CREATURE SHRUGGED THE SPELL OFF AS IF IT WERE ***NOTHING!*** AND YET I WAS ***SURE***...

BUT ***PERHAPS*** MY SPELL WAS TOO ***SPECIFIC***...

...PERHAPS I'M NOT TRULY DEALING WITH ***AN OGRE*** --

-- AT ALL!

VASSH

GRRR

CHEEEZ

CHEEEZ

KLANK

KLONK

Eh? AS I ***SUSPECTED***...

...BUEL EMPLOYED A SPELL OF ***TRANSMOGRIFICATION*** ON HIS GREMLYNS... TO ***DISTRACT*** ME FROM MY GOAL...

...TO ***SEPARATE*** ME FROM --

"-- SPIDER-MAN!"

Oh, WILL YOU COME ON ALREADY..!

FLASH

I'VE ALREADY DISPATCHED SEVERAL OF MY BOYZ TO SEEK AND DESTROY THAT 'FAMILIAR' WHO WAS GUIDING YOU...

...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ONE OF MY PLASMAGIK SPELLS TRANSFORMS YOU INTO A FUNKY LITTLE FLESH THINGIE --

AND ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE PICTURE, I'LL BE ABLE TO PURSUE THE SPHERE OF SARA-KATH AT MY LEISURE OR LEEESURE, WHICH-EVER YOU PREFER, USING ITS UNFATHOMABLE POWER FOR MY REV --

THWIP THWIP

Eh?

THWAP THWAP

HATE TO TELL YA -- YA MISSED..!

MAYBE...

...MAYBE NOT.

TUG

OOOF!

CHUNG

AAAHHH

SHOOMP

NOW, EITHER THESE GUYS ARE GONNA *TURN* ON ME AND *TEAR ME* APART, OR...

CHEE CHEE CHEE

SHOOMP

SHOOMP

...THOUGHT SO.

HEY, *DOC!* IT'S ABOUT *TIME! WHERE* --

WE'VE NO *TIME* FOR THAT, SPIDER-MAN. I MUST *HEAR* FROM THIS ONE...

...HE MAY POSSESS SOME *KNOWLEDGE* THAT WE *WANT* TO KNOW.

I WILL REVEAL MY *ASTRAL* FORM TO THEM...

GUNTHER...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, OM.

YOU, TECHNOMANCER! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS...CHAOS!

IN CALLING UPON THE POWER OF THE SPHERE OF SARA-KATH, YOU UNWITTINGLY ACTIVATED WHAT I ASSUME IS A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL IN THE BASEMENT --

-- WHICH HAS TURNED THIS BUILDING INTO A VERITABLE NEXUS FOR AN INFINITE NUMBER OF CONVERGING REALITIES! OUR VERY EXISTENCE IS IN DIRE JEOPARDY IF WE DON'T...

THAT'S IT, DOC... GO GET 'EM! THESE GUYS DON'T EVEN --

Ungh! THERE IT IS AGAIN! BUT SO MUCH STRONGER THIS TIME..!

SOME... STRANGE... FORCE... CALLING ME...

LAST ISSUE – Relapsin' Ralf.

...ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS IN A MUCH DIFFERENT KIND OF COURT, AND I SUGGEST YOU PUT THAT AWAY, FRIEND -- AS THEY SAY, YOU DON'T BRING A KNIFE TO A GUN FIGHT...

...PULLING ME...

WE'LL LEARN NOTHING FROM HIM -- HE IS MORE CONSUMED BY HIS OWN EGO. WE'LL --

WHAT... WHERE ARE YOU ***GOING?..***

I... SO HARD TO... ***FIGHT*** IT, DOC!.. THE FORCE... ***INCREDIBLE..!*** DRAWING ME ***TOWARD...*** ***TELL*** ME... YOU ***MUST*** KNOW... ***WHAT IS IT?!***

YOU ***MUST*** FIGHT IT, SPIDER-MAN! ***FOCUS!*** THE EXISTENCE OF OUR REALITY -- OF ***ALL*** REALITIES -- HANGS IN THE ***BALANCE!*** ONLY ***WE*** CAN DO THIS...

...AND I CAN'T DO IT ALONE...

CONCENTRATE ON THAT -- IT'S OUR ***RESPONSIBILITY...***

*IT IS ONLY A **WORD** --*

*-- BUT IT'S THE WORD THAT **MOVES** HIM --*

*-- THE WORD THAT **MADE** HIM --*

*-- THE WORD THAT **IS** HIM!*

*INSTANTLY, HIS MIND RACES **BACK**, TO THE DAYS WHEN HE FIRST **RECEIVED** HIS **POWER** --*

*-- TO A DAY WHEN HE **REFUSED** TO USE THAT POWER TO **STOP** THE ESCAPE OF A COMMON **BURGLAR** --*

*-- ONLY TO FIND **LATER** THAT THAT VERY **BURGLAR** WOULD GUN DOWN HIS **UNCLE** IN **COLD BLOOD!***

*IT'S ONLY A **WORD** --*

*-- BUT IT'S **MORE** THAN **ENOUGH!***

OKAY... I'M OKAY...

...LET'S GO!

SHOMP

I'M *AFRAID*, OM, THAT WE MIGHT HAVE --

Shhh.

THE BUEL *RETURNS.*

PAH! SNOWSNAKES!..

MORE LIKE *SNOW-LITTLE-BABY-FLESHTHINGS-THAT-DON'T-WANNA-MESS-WITH-BUEL-ANYMORE*... RIGHT, BOYS?

BUT NOW I'M GONNA *FIND* THAT SPIDER-MAGE PUNK..! AND WHEN I *FIND* HIM, I'M GONNA *GET* HIM..! AND WHEN I *GET* HIM, I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

I'M GONNA KILL HIM... A LOT!

COME ON, BOYS!

SHOMP

Oh, YES, AND BRING *THEM* ALONG...

CHEEE

...I'VE GOT *PLANS* FOR THOSE TWO..!

CHEEE

AND SO, SPIDER-MAN CONTINUES ON HIS QUEST TO GAIN THE SPHERE AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER, THE ASTRAL Dr. STRANGE ACTING AS MYTHICAL SHERPA --

-- EACH FLOOR OF THE TWISTED TECHNOMANCER BUILDING OFFERING UP A MALEVOLENT NEW DIMENSION -- ODD AND VIOLENT REALITIES, FRAUGHT WITH DEATH AND HIDDEN DANGER!

(WELL, OKAY, EXCEPT MAYBE THIS ONE..!)

DARKLY OMINOUS REALMS OF HOPELESSNESS AND FIRE --

-- OF DYSTOPIAN CITIES AND RAVENOUS JUNGLES --

-- A UNIVERSE OF GLIDING MONSTERS.

FOR SPIDER-MAN IT SEEMS A NEVER-ENDING JOURNEY --

UNTIL --

THAT'S IT, SPIDER-MAN. WE'VE ***ARRIVED.*** ***BEHOLD*** --

SHOOMP

-- THE SPHERE OF SARA-KATH!

YEAH, BUT WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE ***PORTAL THINGS*** -- DON'T TELL ME WE COULD'VE TAKEN A ***SHORT CUT*** TO GET HERE...?!

NO. THEY ARE SIMPLY ***DIFFERENT ROUTES*** THROUGH ***DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS.*** BUT ***QUICKLY -- SEIZE THE SPHERE*** --

-- WE MUST PUT AN END TO THIS ***CHAOS NOW!***

GOTCHA.

UNGH! THERE...

THAT'S... ***IT!*** DOC... WHAT'S BEEN CALLIN' ME...

... IT'S... IT'S ***THROUGH*** THIS DOORWAY...

NO, SPIDER-MAN! RESIST ITS INFLUENCE! YOU HAVE TO GRAB THE SPHERE NOW, FOR IN MY ASTRAL FORM, I CA --

...BUT THIS IS SO BEAUTIFUL...

IT IS, ISN'T IT?

AND NOW IT'S ALL MINE! FINALLY, I POSSESS THE POWER OF THE SPHERE!

AND, OF COURSE, YOU KNOW THAT WITH GREAT POWER COMES... LOTSA COOL STUFF! LIKE GETTING REVENGE ON EVERYBODY WHO EVER TORQUED ME OFF! YOU...? YES --

...RATHER THAN USE ITS IMMEASURABLE POWER TO RETURN TO MY HOME WORLD...

...I THINK I'LL JUST BRING MY HOME WORLD... HERE...!

-- BUT FIRST THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FROM MY OWN REALM WHO HAD THE AUDACITY TO EXILE ME! ALTHOUGH NOW THAT I HAVE THE SPHERE...

OUTSIDE..

BUEL IS USING THE SPHERE TO ***ENERGIZE*** THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL -- ***AGGRAVATING*** THE RIFT IN OUR REALITY TO ***MAKE WAY*** FOR HIS WORLD TO ***COME THROUGH!***

AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER-DIMENSIONAL ***"DEBRIS"*** IS ***SEEPING*** THROUGH AS WELL..!

SO, SINCE I'M NOT NEEDED OUT ***HERE*** ANY LONGER, I'D BEST GET --

"-- INSIDE."

OKAY, SPIDEY -- YOU'RE IN SOME DEEP ***WEB-FLUID*** NOW! HOW AM I ***EVER*** GONNA GO UP AGAINST ***BUELIE*** NOW THAT HE'S GOT THE --

VSSH

ENOUGH!

WHOA... DOCTOR STRANGE IS *IN THE HOUSE!*

GOOD T'SEE YA, DOC...

...Y'KNOW... IN THE FLESH...

...UM... Uh, NO PUN INTENDED.

DR. STRANGE, Huh? OKAY, Dr. STRANGE, HEAL THIS!

FLSSH

VMMM

WE ARE IN *DIRE STRAITS*, SPIDER-MAN -- UNLESS WE CAN *WREST* THE SPHERE FROM THIS LUNATIC'S *CONTROL* AND *NEUTRALIZE* THE PORTAL --

-- THE *DARK REALMS* AND THEIR *INHABITANTS* WILL *CREEP* OUT INTO OUR WORLD LIKE A *CANCER!* AND WE HAVE NO TIME TO *WASTE*...

...BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY *BEGUN.*

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME, DOCTOR! THIS LITTLE BABY GIVES ME THE POWER TO ROCK YOUR --

FLSSH

WHA --?! THE SPHERE --

UHF

YOU IDIOT! TAKE THAT!

REEE

FLSSH

OH!

TONK

TONK

COME TO POPPA!

SPIDER-MAN! GO!

USE THE SPHERE TO ***DESTROY THE PORTAL!***

NO!

FLSSH

AND *NOW*, BUEL --

VSSH VSSH VMM

LET'S SEE HOW FORMIDABLE YOU ARE *WITHOUT* THE SPHERE..!

NO *WAY* AM I GOING BACK THE WAY I CAME! I'LL JUST *POP* OUTSIDE AND CLIMB DOWN THE SIDE OF THE --

Oh.

MY.

GOD. DOC WASN'T *KIDDING*. THE RIP IN REALITY *IS* BIGGER...

...AND THE *UGLY NASTINESS* IS STARTING TO *SPILL* OUT INTO THE *CITY!*

...AND I'VE GOTTA GO *DOWN* THERE..?

WELL, I GUESS IF I GOTTA *LEAP* INTO THE *MOUTH OF MADNESS* --

-- IT'S BETTER TO TAKE THE *"EXPRESS"* ROUTE!

GERONIMO LARRY AND CURLY!

I WILL *NOT BE DEFEATED*, STRANGE! CERTAINLY NOT BY YOU!!

IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN HADES WHEN BUEL --

-- PLASMAGE AND GREMLYN-LORD --

-- IS VANQUISHED BY SOME EAR, NOSE AND THROAT GUY!

FLUSH

THWAP

HE SHOOTS --

-- HE SCORES --

-- AND I'M IN! NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS MAKE IT TO THE PORTAL ROOM!

THE POWER OF THE SPHERE STILL ***RESONATES*** WITHIN ME, STRANGE --

-- SO LONG AS IT REMAINS WITHIN THE VICINITY, MY MAGIKS ARE BOLSTERED A HUNDRED-FOLD! SO GET USED TO THE NAME DR. FLESHTHING, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE!

'SCUSE ME.

PARDON ME.

COMIN' THROUGH.

HOLY ***COW!*** THAT THING'S ***GLOWING*** LIKE A ***MAGNESIUM FLARE...***

...***WORSE!*** CAN BARELY ***SEE...***

AND NOW THAT I'M ***HERE,*** WHAT DO I ***DO..?***

I DON'T KNOW FROM ***MAGIC,*** AND DOC DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ***BRIEF ME...***

...BUT I GUESS IF THIS THING IS WHAT'S ***CAUSING*** ALL THE TROUBLE...

...MAYBE IT BE *BETTER* IF IT JUST WASN'T *HERE.*

FLING

Uh...

...I HOPE THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING...

EH?

NO.

¡CLACK

SMACK

ACTUALLY, I WAS A RENOWNED NEUROSURGEON.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

WELL, THOSE TECHNOMANCER GUYS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE GONNA BE SHAKEN UP FROM ***THIS*** LITTLE ESCAPADE FOR AWHILE.

YOU GONNA PUT SOME KINDA ***"WHAMMY"*** ON 'EM?

NO. THEIR ONLY CRIME IS THEIR ***GREED*** FOR ***POWER.***

THEY WISH TO BE ***WIZARDS*** AND ***SORCERERS,*** AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL FIND THAT THE POWER THEY ***SEEK,*** LIKE ALL POWER, MUST BE WIELDED ***RESPONSIBLY.*** OR, LIKE ***ALL*** POWER...

...IT WILL UTTERLY ***CONSUME*** THEM.

REST ***ASSURED,*** SPIDER-MAN, NOW THAT I AM AWARE OF THEIR EXISTENCE ***AND*** INTENTIONS...

...I WILL BE KEEPING AN ***EYE OF AGAMOTTO*** ON THEM.

I ***THANK YOU*** FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, MY FRIEND, BUT THERE IS ***ANOTHER*** MATTER THAT I MUST ***NOW*** INVESTIGATE.

HEY! WAITAMINNIT! THAT'S ***IT?***

WHAT ABOUT THAT... ***THAT...PLACE*** THAT WAS PULLING ME? WHAT ***WAS*** THAT? I MEAN, AFTER ***EVERYTHING*** WE JUST ***WENT*** THROUGH...

...YA AT ***LEAST*** GOTTA TELL ME WHAT THAT ***WAS..!***

SOME THINGS, MY FRIEND, ***MAN*** WAS NOT MEANT TO KNOW.

FAREWELL.

...OF ALL THE ARROGANT...

ARROGANT...?
...IT WAS ***ARROGANCE*** THAT VERY NEARLY CONSUMED ***ME,*** IN MY LIFE BEFORE I BECAME Dr. STRANGE. I SAW THE ***ERROR*** OF MY WAYS BACK THEN, BUT HAVE I ***ONCE AGAIN*** BECOME...

...SPIDER-MAN. WAIT.

YOU ARE ***RIGHT,*** MY FRIEND...

...YOU HAVE ***MORE*** THAN EARNED THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

YOU'VE EARNED...

...THIS!

WOOSH

...BEAUTIFUL ...WHAT...?

...IS IT... HEAVEN...?

NO. I DO NOT KNOW ***WHAT*** IT IS...

...IT IS AN ***IN-BETWEEN PLACE*** -- INHABITED BY ***THOUGHTS*** AND ***DREAMS*** AND ***HOPES...***

... AND THE ESSENCES OF ONES THAT ***WERE...***

LIKE...

...PARADISE...

HAVE YOU ANY *IDEA,* MY FRIEND, WHY YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN *BIDDEN* HERE?

NO...

WAIT! YES! I...I *KNOW...*

...IT'S...

...IT'S...

-- Huh!

FSSSS

YEAH... IT'S... B...

...BYE...

WHAT...*HAPPENED?* WAS THAT SOME... *ONE...?*

SPIDER-MAN... *WHO --*

Y'KNOW, DOC --

-- THERE ARE *SOME THINGS* EVEN A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS ISN'T MEANT TO KNOW..!

BUT *THANKS* FOR THAT...

...THANKS A *LOT.*

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
MARK GRUENWALD
FAST FRIEND, KINDRED SPIRIT, TEACHER --
CLASS WAS DISMISSED MUCH TOO EARLY...

MARVEL COMICS

FEB
#24

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DEZAGO
NAUCK
HENNESSY

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

HYDRO-MAN 'RAINS' IN THE Holiday Season!

™

CHRISTMAS EVE, AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET A **JINGLE**...

I MEAN, WHEN I WAS BITTEN BY THE RADIOACTIVE SPIDER THAT GAVE ME MY POWERS, I ALSO GOT SOMETHING **ELSE**: A **SPIDER-SENSE** --

--KINDA LIKE A BUILT-IN **EARLY WARNING SYSTEM** THAT CLUES ME IN TO ANY **IMMINENT DANGER**... Y'KNOW, AMBUSH, SNEAK ATTACKS, **BULLETS**...

...BUT FOR THIS...

THWIP

...I NEVER GOT SO MUCH AS A TINGLE...

...SOMEHOW, CHRISTMAS SNUCK **RIGHT UP** ON ME!

SO, WHILE EVERYBODY'S HEADING **HOME**, THEIR ARMS LOADED WITH **PRESENTS**, TO THEIR NICE WARM **HOUSES** AND THEIR NICE WARM **FAMILIES**...

...THIS **FRUSTRATED** SPIDER-MAN IS SWINGING AROUND MANHATTAN AT ZERO HOUR **DESPERATELY** LOOKING FOR THAT ELUSIVE **LAST-MINUTE** GIFT... AND MAYBE...

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...MAYBE A LITTLE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, TOO!

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN STOCKING STUFFER

A Christmas Story

TODD DEZAGO
SAME OLD WRITER
RS & COMICRAFT'S KIFF SCHOLL LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS

TODD NAUCK GUEST PENCILS
ANDREW HENNESSEY GUEST INKS

What you missed in today's Daily Bugle:
BUG BOUNTY
BUGLE SATS REWARD AT 1 MILLION --
SPIDER-MAN
PUBLIC ENEMY #1
PLAY [illegible] AND [illegible]

RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR

BOB HARRAS FATHER CHRISTMAS

TAXI

MST-3K

DAD, LOOK --

-- SPIDER-MAN!

Ah, MY ADORING PUBLIC..!

HEY! THE DAILY BUGLE'S GOT A $ 1 MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY ON 'IS HEAD -- FER TRYIN'A KILL THAT OSBORN GUY! I SEEN IT ON TV --

-- THEY SAY HE'S NOTHIN' BUT A THUG IN TIGHTS!

Oh. GREAT.

As seen in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN 250 – Retaliating Ralf.

...HERE IT COMES.

SINCE NORMAN OSBORN'S RETURNED TO NEW YORK, HE'S FRAMED ME AND TRASHED MY REP -- TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF LOOK LIKE A REAL SWEET GUY --

-- PSYCHOPATH --

-- MONSTER --

-- MURDERER --

1 MIL?!? YEAH, I'D LIKE A PIECE O' THAT GREEN!

-- AND MAKING MY LIFE A LIVING HECK!

Y'KNOW, POPULAR TO CONTRARY BELIEF, I DIDN'T DO ALL THOSE THINGS...

...BUT I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN IF I TOLD YOU THAT IT WAS ALL A LOAD OF --

-- WHOA!

BAM BAM BAM

WHO..?

THERE.

Huh?! NO!
GIMME THAT!
DO YOU HAVE ANY *IDEA* WHAT YOU'RE DOING?! WHERE THOSE SLUGS ARE *GOING*?!
IT'S LIKE SOME KINDA STREET-PHYSICS **THEORUM:**
THE **DUMBER** THE GUY, THE **BIGGER** THE GUN.
*ALTHOUGH, WITH OSBORN'S **REWARD** OUT THERE, I GUESS I SHOULD'VE **EXPECTED** IT... THERE WAS BOUND TO BE AT LEAST **ONE** IDIOT --*
-- Huh?
GET 'IM, GUYS! WE CAN SPLIT THAT BOUNTY *BETWEEN US!*
Mmm... ONE MILLION DIVIDED *FIVE* WAYS..?
I THINK YOU GUYS'RE GONNA NEED A *CALCULATOR* FOR *THAT* KINDA MATH!
*THIS IS GETTING **RIDICULOUS**..!*

AND, LATER...

REALLY, I THOUGHT I HAD THE CHRISTMAS THING **COVERED** --

I HAD ACTUALLY FOUND THE TIME TO PICK UP A FEW PRESENTS IN BETWEEN **SCHOOL**, MY JOB AT THE **BUGLE**, AND MY OTHER... **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

AND IT WAS **FUNNY**, 'CAUSE THE **ONE PERSON** I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE A **HARD TIME** CHOOSING A GIFT FOR, MARY JANE'S **AUNT ANNA**...

... TURNED OUT TO BE THE **EASIEST!**

ESU

Happy Holidays

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE **ANSWER** TO THAT PROBLEM ACTUALLY WALKED THROUGH OUR **FRONT DOOR** WHEN ANNA INTRODUCED US TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS, **ELLEN HIBBERT** AND HER DAUGHTER, **HOPE.**

HOPE IS ABOUT 8 OR 9, AND DEAF. AUNT ANNA'S BEEN **HELPING** ELLEN OUT, **WATCHING** HOPE IN THE MORNINGS AND AFTER SCHOOL...

Happy Holidays

... AND JUST **SEEING** THE WAY ANNA **LIT UP** WHEN SHE WAS AROUND HER; HER JOY IN **DOTING** ON HER, IN BEING **NEEDED**...

...BOTH OF THEM **EXCITED** BY THE **NEW WORLDS** THEY WERE SHOWING EACH OTHER...

... THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED.

THE JOY OF SIGNING

WELL, OBVIOUSLY NOT ALL I NEEDED, OR ELSE I WOULDN'T BE OUT HERE NOW, TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THIS **ONE LAST PRESENT!**

AND THE WORST PART IS, I STILL DON'T HAVE THE **FOGGIEST IDEA** OF **WHAT TO GET..!**

SHORTLY...

WORKING LATE, EVEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE..?

DAILY BUGLE

...DOESN'T JONAH EVER GO HOME?!

ALTHOUGH, WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH THE BUGLE LATELY, NAMELY NORMAN OSBORN ACQUIRING A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE PAPER --

-- I'M SURE THAT, AS PUBLISHER, JONAH HAS TO PUT IN EXTRA OVERTIME JUST TO KEEP OSBORN FROM RUNNING HIM OUT!

DAILY BUGLE

BUG BOUNTY

BUGLE UPS REWARD TO 1 MILLION -- SPIDER-MAN PUBLIC ENEMY #1

BUT THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, JONAH -- YOU'RE MORE OF A FIGHTER THAN THIS! YOU ACT LIKE YOUR HANDS ARE TIED -- LIKE YOU'RE ALREADY DEFEATED... THE BUGLE IS YOUR LIFE, HOW DID YOU EVEN LET THIS HAPPEN?!

WHAT HAS OSBORN DONE TO YOU..?

MERRY CHRISTMAS, Mr. JAMESON...

To Mr. Jameson from Peter & MJ Parker

...AND HOPEFULLY A HAPPIER NEW YEAR FOR ALL OF US.

MARY JANE.

AFTER THE YEAR WE'VE HAD, MORE THAN ANYTHING, I WANTED TO GIVE HER SOMETHING **SPECIAL**...

...SOMETHING **BIG**...

...SOMETHING SHE **NEEDED!**

I WANTED TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM THIS **CRAZY, CHAOTIC, ERRATIC, INSANE** SUPERHERO WORLD SHE MARRIED INTO... IF ONLY FOR A WEEK.

MONEY WAS TIGHT... I'D STASHED AWAY A LITTLE CASH...

...BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL I FOUND A LITTLE PRESENT FROM THE **PAST**...

PHANTASMIC COMICS & COLLECTIBLES

MARVEL COMICS ON SALE

Yes we're OPEN

...(NAMELY, A BOX-v OF MY OLD **MONSTER COMICS** FROM WHEN I WAS A KID)* --

* SEE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN FLASHBACK -1 – Reliable Ralph.

-- THAT GAVE ME ENOUGH TO GET HER WHAT I WANTED!

HOBSON TRAVEL

To MARY JANE FROM PETER

Merry Christmas, Honey! I love You.

INTERLUDE:
A BLOCK AWAY --

-- WHERE WE FIND A RATHER PARANOID **MORRIE BENCH**, AKA THE LIQUATIC **HYDRO-MAN**, CHANCING YET ANOTHER FURTIVE GLANCE OVER HIS AQUEOUS SHOULDER.

I ***KNOW*** THEY'RE BACK THERE... ***FOLOWIN'*** ME!

I ***NEVER*** SHOULDA STAYED HERE IN NEW YORK PAS' OCTOBER FIRST, SHOULDA TRUCKED DOWN T'PENSACOLA LIKE I ***ALWAYS*** DO...

DAILY BUGLE
BUG BOUNTY
BUGLE UPS REWARD TO 5 MILLION -- SPIDER-MAN PUBLIC ENEMY #1

...THESE FREEZIN' TEMPERATURES ARE ***NO PLACE*** FOR A GUY MADE A' WATER!

AN' NOW THEY'RE ***ONTA*** ME! I KNOW THEY ARE! COPS OR S.H.I.E.L.D., I DUNNO ***WHICH***, BUT THEY'RE ***ONTA*** ME! THESE TWO MOOKS ***BEHIN'*** ME --

-- WHADDA THEY ***GOT*** IN THEM ***BAGS..?*** SOME KINDA COMBINATION ***QUANTUM-PNEUMATIC VACUUM*** AN' ***CONTAINMENT UNIT*** -- LIKE A HIGH-TECH ***STEAM CLEANER*** --

-- WELL...

...DROP THEM BAGS AN' GET 'EM OUT THEN, BOYS! WE'LL SEE WHAT YER TOYS CAN DO! BUT I'LL TELL YA THIS... YOU AIN'T SUCKIN' UP HYDRO-MAN --

-- YOU AIN'T SUCKIN' UP HYDRO-MAN!

SMOOSH

I THINK HE WANTS OUR LAUNDRY.

WHAT'S HE SAYIN'?

AND JUST AROUND THE CORNER --

WOW, THIS IS GETTING DANGEROUS.

NOT FOR ME... FOR THEM.

IT SEEMS LIKE SUDDENLY EVERYBODY'S GOT SPIDER-FEVER, AND IF IT KEEPS UP LIKE THIS, SOMEBODY'S GOING TO GET HUR --

-- GLUG?

SPLOOSH

SSSHHHH

WHAT, DID SOMEBODY HIT A HYDRANT? OR --

-- HYDRO-MAN!?

SPIDER-MAN! I SHOULDA KNOWN! YER WITH THEM, AREN'TCHA?! YER IN ON IT!

WELL, YER NOT TAKIN' ME DOWN, YA HEAR ME..?!

FOOOSH

MORRIE, WAIT! THE WINDOW!

..YER NOT!

KERSSSH!

SPLASH!

LEA' ME ALONE! YA UNDERSTAN'?!

MERRY

BENCH, LOOK OUT! THERE'S KIDS --

NO! YA HEAR ME? LEMME GO!

SPLOOSH

UNGH!

ERP

ST

LIKE BEING HIT WITH A TIDAL WAVE! THERE HE GOES, I'D BETTER --

YOU WRECKED IT. YOU WRECKED THE CHRISTMAS TOWN...

I...

SOON --

MAN, NOW I JUST FEEL **MORE** DEPRESSED... I'M S'POSED TO BE OUT HERE TRYING TO FIND THE **PERFECT PRESENT**, AND ALL I SEEM TO BE ABLE TO FIND IS **TROUBLE!**

AND IT HAS TO BE JUST THE **RIGHT GIFT**, BECAUSE...

...WELL, JUST **BECAUSE.**

BECAUSE I WAS DOWN AT THE **BUGLE** THIS AFTERNOON, CHECKING MY MESSAGES ON THE FREELANCER'S MODUM...

Huh. THAT'S THE **SECOND** TIME I'VE HEARD THIS...*

GLORY LEFT ME A NOTE THAT SAYS A YOUNG **BLONDE WOMAN** WAS HERE LOOKING FOR ME, BUT THAT SHE **WOULDN'T** LEAVE A NAME...

BLAH BLAH BLAH

...**WHO** COULD IT BE? IT'S NOT **LIZ OSBORN** -- GLORY KNOWS HER, AND THOUGH WE HAVEN'T SEEN **FELICIA** IN A WHILE...

...SHE'D CALL THE HOUSE AND... BESIDES, HER HAIR IS SO **BLEACHED OUT** IT'S --

YO! PETE!

* See **SENSATONAL SPIDER-MAN 21** FOR THE FIRST TIME -- – Recallin' Ralf.

SPIDEY

DUDE, YOU'RE ***JUST THE GUY*** I'M LOOKING FOR.

Mr. JAMESON JUST APPROVED A PIECE I WROTE ON ***SPIDER-MAN,*** AND HE TOLD ME TO GET A PHOTO FROM ***YOU*** TO GO WITH IT! Y'KNOW...

...SOMETHING ***COOL!***

BILLY, MAN -- ***PICTURES,*** I GOT --

-- ALTHOUGH ALL ***JONAH*** EVER WANTS THEM FOR IS TO DECLARE SPIDEY A WALL-CRAWLING ***MENACE*** TO ***SOCIETY!***

WELL, ***THAT'S*** WHY I WANTCHA TO SLIDE ME A SHOT THAT'S NOT TOO ***DARK...***

I REALLY WANT TO ***WRITE*** THIS THING, AND DESPITE SOME ***EDITING*** BY Mr. J., I THINK IT'S STILL LIKE, PRETTY ***OBJECTIVE,*** MAYBE EVEN PUTS HIM ON THE ***PLUS*** SIDE --

-- CUZ', Y'KNOW, DUDE -- I DON'T CARE WHAT ***ANYBODY*** SAYS --

-- SPIDER-MAN ***ROCKS!***

ALTHOUGH I'VE ONLY KNOWN HIM FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS, **BILLY WALTERS** IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE **NICEST GUYS** I'VE MET.

HE'S A FREELANCE REPORTER. JONAH PAIRED US UP A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS KINDA **OBNOXIOUS**...

...I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT HIS **LAID BACK** ATTITUDE AND THAT... **INNOCUOUS** SMILE OF HIS HAVE REALLY **GROWN ON ME.**

SO HOW ABOUT IF I BRING IN A BUNCH OF PICS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM ON FRIDAY, DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND WE --

HE ALSO WANTS VERY BADLY FOR US TO BE **'BUDS'**...

DUDE! THAT REMINDS ME...

...MERRY CHRISTMAS, PARTNER!

I... Uh...

THANKS. MER-MERRY CHRISTMAS, MAN.

I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF HIM... HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED GETTING HIM A PRESENT...

I FELT TERRIBLE. I STILL DO.

SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Give of Yourself This Christmas!

AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GET...

I KNOW THAT I DON'T **HAVE** TO GET HIM ANYTHING, THAT'S **NOT** WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT...

...BUT I **WANT** TO.

...AND THEN YOUR **GRANDMOTHER** HID THE COOKIES AROUND THE HOUSE...

...LIKE EGGS AT EASTER, NEVER KNOWING THAT THE DOG WAS FOLLOWING **BEHIND HER** AND **EATING** EACH COOKIE **AS SHE WENT!**

PETER, ARE YOU **SURE** YOU DON'T WANT TO HELP WITH THESE COOKIES?

Nah. I'M SORRY, MJ, BUT I'M... I'M JUST NOT IN THE **MOOD**... I FEEL LKE...

...LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING **MISSING.**

I DON'T SEE **HOW,** DEAR -- WE HAVE ALL THE MAKINGS OF A **WONDERFUL** CHRISTMAS!

IT'S NOT THE **TRIMMINGS** OR THE **ATMOSPHERE,** AUNT ANNA, IT'S SOMETHING, I DON'T KNOW...

...I JUST WISH I HAD GOTTEN SOMETHING FOR **BILLY...**

LISTEN, TIGER -- I ***KNOW*** YOU. AND THIS IS GOING TO BOTHER YOU IF YOU DON'T ***DO*** SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

SO AS MUCH AS IT MEANS TO ME TO HAVE YOU ***HOME*** WITH ***ME*** ON CHRISTMAS EVE, WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND FIND SOMETHING FOR BILLY. IT'LL MAKE YOU ***FEEL BETTER.***

ARE -- ARE YOU ***SURE?***

I'M ***SURE,*** PETER!

AND DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU'VE GOT THAT ***CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!***

-- AND ***WORRIED,*** 'CAUSE NOW I'M STARTING TO LOSE WHAT LITTLE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT I DO HA--

AND SO HERE I AM, RIGHT BACK WHERE I ***STARTED...*** ***DISCOURAGED*** 'CAUSE I CAN'T FIND SOMETHING FOR BILLY --

-- AND SUDDENLY, I REALIZE --

-- I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE WRONG THING --

-- IN THE WRONG PLACES!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING WITH THE WRONG EYES --

-- NOT SEEING THAT WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR WAS ALL AROUND ME!

THE JOY! --

-- THE COMPASSION! --

-- THE HAPPINESS! --

THE SMILES THAT COME WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON! THAT COME WITH --

-- THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

THAT'S IT! I'VE GOT IT!

POLAROID
TIMER

to: BILLY
from: PETER
Merry Christmas, Partner!

-- AND HEY! --
MERRY CHRISTMAS, SPIDEY!

I TOLD BILLY THAT I'D RUN INTO PETER --

THWIP

-- THAT I OWED HIM A FAVOR -- A FEW OF THEM, ACTUALLY --

-- THAT HE ASKED IF I WOULD DELIVER A PRESENT --

BILLY WAS BESIDE HIMSELF --

I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY PLEASURE...

...AND IT WAS!

'M'HOME!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *TELL* ME, I CAN SEE IT ON YOUR *FACE*...

...YOU *FOUND* IT!

I SURE DID.

PETER! WE WERE ALL HOPING YOU'D GET BACK BEFORE THE END OF *"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!"*

AND THE FUNNY THING IS, AUNT ANNA -- THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS *LOOKING* FOR IT, IT WAS *RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!

WELL, PETER, IT LOOKS TO *ME* LIKE YOU *FOUND* WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.

WISHING YOU THE *HAPPIEST* OF *HOLIDAYS* FROM ALL OF US HERE AT *SENSATIONAL!* TODD, TODD, ANDREW, KIFF, GREG, MATT, RALPH, AND BOB! MIKE AND RICH, TOO!

***SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #23* FOOTBALL VARIANT,** A GIVEAWAY HONORING KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WIDE RECEIVER ANDRE "SPIDER-MAN" RISON

SPIDER-MAN: THE SAVAGE LAND SAGA TPB COLLECTED *SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #13-15*. INTRODUCTION BY RALPH MACCHIO.

OCCASIONALLY, THINGS COME TOGETHER PERFECTLY. SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH OUR THREE-PART SAVAGE LAND EXTRAVAGANZA IN *SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN'S #13-15*. THIS WAS EXACTLY THE STORY I ENVISIONED WHEN TODD AND I FIRST DISCUSSED IT. WE KNEW THERE WERE RISKS, THOUGH. MOST SPIDEROPHILES PREFER TO SEE THEIR WEB-SPINNING WONDER DOING HIS THING AMIDST THE CONCRETE ENVIRONS OF MANHATTAN—AND THIS WAS GOING TO BE AS FAR AWAY FROM THE BIG APPLE AS YOU COULD GET. STILL, IT SEEMS READER REACTION PROVED OUR FEARS GROUNDLESS; IT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. IN FACT, IT WAS SO AFFIRMATIVE, WE HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GIVE YOU HAPPY CAMPERS AN ENCORE PRESENTATION OF THOSE THREE ALREADY CLASSIC ISSUES OF *SENSATIONAL*.

AND IT WAS ALL INITIALLY POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS OF MIKE WIERINGO, OUR ESTEEMED PENCILER, WHO PLANTED THE SEED WHEN HE SUGGESTED DOING A SPIDEY STORY SET DOWN UNDER; RICH CASE, OUR INCREDIBLE INKER, WHO SO BEAUTIFULLY EMBELLISHED MIKE'S SUPERB PENCILS; TODD DEZAGO, OUR WONDROUS WRITER, WHOSE SOLID PLOTTING AND CRISP DIALOGUE PULLED IT ALL TOGETHER; GREG WRIGHT, OUR CALIPH OF COLORING, WHOSE VIBRANT PALETTE MAGNIFICENTLY CAPTURED THE MANY-HUED SPLENDOR OF THE SAVAGE LAND. AND ME, I GET TO ENJOY THE FAR-OUT FANTASY A SECOND TIME—ALONG WITH ALL OF YOU. WHAT A JOB!

—RALPH MACCHIO/EDITOR

SPIDER-MAN: THE SAVAGE LAND SAGA TPB

WRAPAROUND COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO, TOMMY LEE EDWARDS & CHRIS LICHTNER

SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST TEAM-UPS TPB COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO, GARY MARTIN & ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH

MARVEL HOLIDAY SPECIAL 1996 COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO, RICH CASE & PAUL MOUNTS

MARVEL VISION #12 COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO, RICH CASE & ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH

WIZARD #64 COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO & TWILIGHT GRAPHICS' MICHAEL ATIYEH

WIZARD #72 **COVER** BY MIKE WIERINGO & TWILIGHT GRAPHICS' MICHAEL ATIYEH

BONUS: GEN13'S NEW MEMBERS, WHO'S IN & WHO'S OUT!

WIZARD®

THE GUIDE TO COMICS•72

OVERSTREET'S FAN #22 COVER BY MIKE WIERINGO & JEFF DILLON

RICO
-N-
CASE

A SENSATIONAL SAGA STARRING SEVERAL SPIDER-MEN!

BEN REILLY (remember him?) has taken up the webs, but he's about to be taken down by…the Looter?! And if he can get out of that one, he'll face the sting of Swarm! But when revelations rock Ben's world, he'll make way for the one, true Spider-Man: Peter Parker! Peter takes on a *Daily Bugle* assignment in the Savage Land, where you might expect him to bump into Ka-Zar — but what's the Hulk doing there? With the real Prowler out of action, someone muscles in on his act — and gets caught between Spidey and the Vulture! The Trapster and Living Pharaoh return, Doctor Strange lends a mystical hand, and we flash back to the days of a studious young boy, his Uncle Ben…and the Marvel Monsters!

COLLECTING ***SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN (1996) #7-24*** AND ***#-1*** — WRITTEN BY TODD DEZAGO, MIKE WIERINGO AND RICHARD CASE; AND ILLUSTRATED BY WIERINGO, LUKE ROSS, JOSH HOOD, CASE, JASON ARMSTRONG AND TODD NAUCK.

T

MARVEL